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Back cover: Peregrine Falcon at Alexandra Palace. (Henry Wyn-Jones)

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LONDON BIRD REPORT

NO.78 FOR THE YEAR 2013

PRODUCED BY THE LBR EDITORIAL BOARD



London
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Society

PUBLISHED JUNE 2015

CONTENTS

Introduction and Acknowledgements - Pete Lambert	5
Rarities Committee and Recorders	7
Recording Arrangements	8
Map of the London Area	9
Mini-gazetteer of Sites	10
Review of the Year - Nick Rutter	15
Contributors to the Systematic List	19
Birds of the London Area	26
Swans to Shelduck - Alex Massey	27
Dabbling Ducks - Malcolm Kendall	31
Diving Ducks - Sean Huggins	38
Gamebirds - Bob Watts	46
Divers to Shag - Ian Woodward	48
Hérons - Gareth Richards	54
Raptors - Andrew Moon	58
Rails - Quentin Given	68
Oystercatcher to Jack Snipe - Daisy Cairns and Pete Lambert	71
Common Snipe to Phalaropes - Andrew Self	81
Skuas to Gulls - Richard Bonser	88
Terns - David Campbell	98
Auks to Cuckoo - Peter Newmark	102
Owls to Woodpeckers - Paul Goodman	107
Larks to Waxwing - Tim Harris	113
Wren to Thrushes - Mathew Reed	123
Warblers - Paul Whiteman	133
Crests to Treecreeper - Derek Coleman	142
Shrikes to Sparrows - Alan Lewis	150
Chaffinch to Siskin - Angela Linnell	159
Linnet to Hawfinch - Anthony Stones	163
Buntings - Bob Watts	166
Appendix I & II: Escapes and Hybrids - Pete Lambert	169
Appendix III: Non-proven & non-submitted records and records in circulation	175

Ringling Report - Paul Roper	179
Foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls - Alan Gibson	186
Changes in the Bird-life of the Limsfield Chart District - Peter Oliver	188
The Breeding Bird Survey in London - Ian Woodward	206
The Breeding Birds of London Wetland Centre - Jan Wilczur	209
Summaries of Highlights at Well-watched Sites	236
Alexandra Park - Bob Watts	236
Brent Reservoir - Andrew Self	237
Beddington Farmlands - Peter Alfrey	238
Blackheath and Greenwich Park - Joe Beale	239
Canons Farm - Paul Goodman	240
Crossness - John Archer	241
Staines Moor - Lee Dingain	242
Staines Reservoirs - Rob Innes	243
Obituary: Peter Naylor (1950-2012) - Andrew Moon	244
Checklist of Birds of the London Area and Guide to Contributors of Records	247
Breeding Criteria	256

Links to files on the LNHS website

Full and Short Gazetteers of Sites (see page 8)

Checklist and Guide (see page 247)

On the London Bird Club webpage - scroll down to 'Bird Recording':

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/ornithology1.htm>

Rarities

As above. Click on the 'Rarities' link.

Ringling Report (see page 179)

Foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls (see page 186)

Indexes of Common and Scientific Names

On the Publications webpage:

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/Publications.htm#LBR2013>

We apologise for the incorrect link to the Publications webpage in LBR 2012, which should be: <http://www.lnhs.org.uk/Publications.htm#LBR2012>

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for those with a particular interest in birds.

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/ornithology1.htm>

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LONDON BIRD REPORT FOR 2013

This *London Bird Report* has been produced by an Editorial Board, comprising:

Chair of Editorial Board	Pete Lambert
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Data Manager	John Archer
Editor: Birds of the London Area	Pete Lambert
Editor: Papers	Mike Trier
Editor: Photographs	Jonathan Lethbridge
Editor: Remaining sections	Pete Lambert
Production Manager	Gus Wilson

Introduction

There are several minor changes in this report. We have changed our definition of 'Lower Thames' on page 26 to start from the Thames Barrier; in previous issues it started at Crossness. There are also some changes to the species that the BBRC decide on from January 1st 2015. These affect Lesser Scaup, Tawny Pipit, Red-throated Pipit, Citrine Wagtail, Aquatic Warbler, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Penduline Tit and Rustic Bunting (see pages 247 to 255 for details). These do not affect the records in this year's or next year's report. Following a suggestion from one of our readers, our Gazetteers (including the Mini-Gazetteer published here and the Full Gazetteer on our website) now give all Inner London sites with the vice-county as well, so they appear as IL/KT, IL/MX or IL/SY. Also by request, we published an online index for *LBR* 2012 of common and scientific names that included the main species entries in Birds of the London Area and also page-references to illustrations and photographs. This will be produced for each issue.

There are also some personnel changes. This is the last issue for which John Archer will be our Data Manager. From *LBR* 2014, Derek Turner will be taking over this role and joining the Editorial Board, but John will be staying on the Editorial Board. Our thanks go to John for all his work as Data Manager since the formation of the Editorial Board. We also welcome Sean Huggins to the team of proof-readers. Finally, David Campbell has taken over as our Surrey Recorder from Nick Tanner. David's contact details are on page 7. Our thanks to Nick Tanner for his work as Surrey Recorder.

We would like to keep the size of the *LBR* to no more than 256 pages but this has meant that some of the papers are summarised here. In these cases, the full version is on our website and a link to the website is given in the paper published here. In the case of the Foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls paper, we also have a spreadsheet of the records on the website so that you can reorganise them for closer inspection. There is no paper on the London Wetland Bird Survey this year.

We announced the death of Pete Naylor in *LBR* 2010, and this issue contains an obituary on pages 244 to 246.

As part of the support for the writers of the sections in the Birds of London part of the report, we have produced details of records of rarities. These are now available on the

LNHS website at <http://www.lnhs.org.uk/ornithology1.htm>; click on the Rarities link there. This has been drawn up from past issues of the *LBR*; if you find any errors in it, please let me know.

As always, your comments on this issue are very welcome, especially any suggestions as to how we could improve things even more. My contact details are given below.

Finally, I would like to remind people sending us records from new sites, to send OS grid references for these sites; otherwise it can take quite a lot of work for us to locate them (see page 8).

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the London Natural History Society, I would like to thank the many individuals and organisations who have contributed their records. Without your enthusiastic support we could not produce the annual *London Bird Report*.

I would also like to thank all those who helped with the production of the report: the authors of the Review of the Year and the Systematic List, and the authors of the papers (listed above); Dawn Painter and Jan Wilczur for their illustrations; all the photographers who kindly donated their photos; Garganey Consulting Ltd for the ringing recovery maps; Nigel Partridge for designing this issue; and Mavis Pilbeam, Mike Howard, Richard Carpenter and Sean Huggins for proof-reading the text. Thanks also to all the members of the Editorial Board.

I am particularly grateful to all the Recorders, who, in addition to the time-consuming tasks of inputting all the data for their area, checked the species accounts in the Systematic List and provided comments and corrections. I would also like to thank the many people who looked at the draft text and made comments to improve it. If you would also like to see draft copies of future reports for comment, please let me know. Thanks also to Thames Water for the many courtesies extended to our members, and to the following organisations for their generous help in the exchange of records:

BirdGuides, British Birds Rarities Committee, British Trust for Ornithology,
Buckinghamshire Bird Club, East London Birders Forum,
Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC,
Hertfordshire Natural History Society, Kent Ornithological Society,
Londonbirders Yahoo group, Surrey Bird Club

Pete Lambert, Chair of the Editorial Board, May 2015
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Email: plamb@phonecoop.coop
Phone: 020 8531 9814

RARITIES COMMITTEE AND RECORDERS

RARITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman: Bob Watts

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RECORDING ARRANGEMENTS

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/ornithology1.htm>

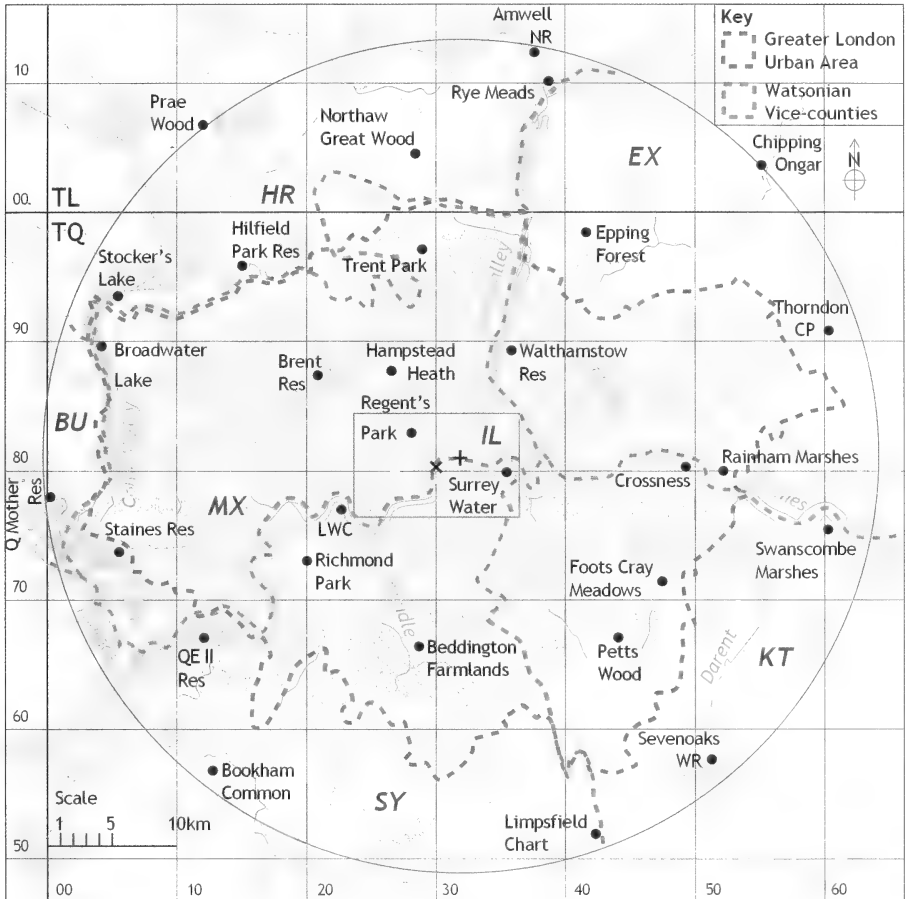
The London recording area covered by this Report, 'the London Area', lies within a 20-mile radius of St Paul's Cathedral. The Area covers the whole of Greater London and parts of Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. However, for continuity of recording, we still use the Watsonian vice-counties in this Report rather than the present administrative areas (but we combine vice-counties 18 and 19 as Essex). These vice-county boundaries are all shown on the map opposite. We also use a special recording zone for 'Inner London', which covers parts of Middlesex, Surrey and (just) Kent. This is a rectangular area, five miles north to south, eight miles east to west, centred on the site of the old Charing Cross on the south side of Trafalgar Square.

All records are welcome, from LNHS members and non-members alike. We would particularly like information on the local status of common species, breeding records, notes on passage (including first and last dates and main movements), regular counts of wintering populations, notes on behaviour, as well as details of unusual birds. Many of the common birds in London are under-recorded. Regular reports from the same sites are a great help in seeing population trends, and such reports, along with comments on changes in status, are always very welcome. Our Guide to Contributors of Records on pages 247 to 255, together with the Breeding Criteria on page 256, gives guidance on what information we would like for each species. Records should be sent to the appropriate Recorder listed on page 7 but if you are not sure which Recorder to send them to, send your records to the Chair of the *LBR* Editorial Board. Please use site names as listed in our Gazetteer (see below) if you can, when sending in records. **If you send in details from sites not listed in the Gazetteer, please give an OS Grid Reference for the site.**

It would be very helpful if you could send in records on a spreadsheet; a sample and instructions are on our website (under 'Subject Group', then 'London's Birds', then 'LNHS Bird Recording Form'). Otherwise contact one of our Recorders or the Chair of the Editorial Board. It would also help if you list different species in the order used in this Report. Separate sheets should be used for each recording area.

Records of nationally rare species have to be considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Their website (www.bbrc.org.uk) gives details. You should send these records as soon as possible after the sighting, with a copy to the relevant Recorder. Breeding records of rare species should be sent to the relevant Recorder. Details will then be sent to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (www.rbbp.org.uk). Where requested, records will of course be treated in strict confidence. Records of other rare and unusual species in the London Area are considered by our Rarities Committee before being included in the *London Bird Report*. Species for which we need a full description or brief description/field notes are listed in the Guide for Contributors. Please send these as soon as possible after the sighting.

Our records are stored with Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) and if you would like to use any of our records for study purposes, please contact GiGL for details: <http://www.gigl.org.uk/contact/>



LNHS Area map with locations of some well-known bird-watching sites. Boundary sites give an indication of the extent of the LNHS Area. A grey background shows a built-up area. (Contains Ordnance Survey data ©Crown copyright and database rights 2012)

Gazetteer of Sites

A mini-gazetteer of sites is listed on pages 10 to 14. All the main sites in this Report are included, and all the sites added to the Full Gazetteer this year are in *italic type*.

The Full Gazetteer is online at <http://www.lnhs.org.uk/ornithology1.htm> and lists open spaces and the names of towns, villages, etc. Neither Gazetteer lists streets; you should be able to locate these easily with a street map, but contact us if you have difficulty.

Each site name is followed by the vice-county and an OS Grid Reference; this should help you to find the site on a map. The Grid Reference either refers to the centre of the site, or to a point of particular ornithological interest. Not all of these sites are open to the public; some are private, for some you need to have a permit. Contact the Chair of the Editorial Board if you need information on any site (details on page 6).

MINI-GAZETTEER OF SITES

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/ornithology1.htm>

Only sites mentioned in this Report are included below. Those in *italic type* are sites which have been added to the Gazetteer this year. A key to abbreviations is on page 26.

If a site is not entirely within one of our recording areas, then it is usually taken to be in the recording area that contains the larger area of the site. The most notable of these are all of the Lea Valley reservoirs, Holyfield Lake, Crystal Palace Park, South Norwood Country Park, Victoria Park, Wraysbury Res and Stocker's Lake.

Addington Hills (SY) TQ352644	<i>Bickley</i> (KT) TQ427693	Cassiobury Park (HR) TQ090970
Aldenham CP (HR) TQ170955	<i>Biggin Woods</i> (SY) TQ317702	Castle Hill (SY) TQ188632
Aldenham School (HR) TQ157974	<i>Billingsgate Fish Market</i>	Caterham (SY) TQ341555
Alexandra Park (MX) TQ300900	(MX) TQ378804	Cely Woods (EX) TQ560830
<i>Alexandra RG & Allotments</i>	<i>Birch Wood, Surrey</i>	<i>Chandlers Field School</i>
(SY) TQ192665	(SY) TQ387636	(SY) TQ135679
Amwell NR (HR) TL378128	<i>Birchall</i> (HR) TL272117	<i>Cheam Village</i> (SY) TQ243638
Arbrook Common (SY) TQ143632	<i>Blackheath Standard</i>	<i>Chelsea</i> (IL/MX) TQ274784
<i>Arnos Park</i> (MX) TQ295927	(KT) TQ406772	<i>Chelsea Wharf</i> (IL/MX) TQ265770
<i>Arrandene OS</i> (MX) TQ227921	<i>Blackheath Vanbrugh Park</i>	<i>Cherry Tree Wood</i> (MX) TQ275890
Ashford Common (MX) TQ087697	(KT) TQ396773	Cheshunt GPs (HR) TL370030
<i>Ashtead Park</i> (SY) TQ196577	<i>Bletchingley</i> (SY) TQ327502	Chess Valley (HR) TQ052961
Banstead Downs (SY) TQ252610	Bookham Common (SY) TQ130565	<i>Chessington World of Adventures</i>
Barking Bay/Marsh (EX) TQ477820	<i>Bow</i> (MX) TQ370830	(SY) TQ173624
<i>Barkingside</i> (EX) TQ440896	<i>Bow Locks</i> (MX) TQ382824	<i>Cheyne Walk OS</i> (MX) TQ316960
<i>Barn Elms Pond</i> (SY) TQ228766	<i>Boxers Wood</i> (SY) TQ298568	<i>Chigwell Row</i> (EX) TQ467935
<i>Barn Elms Sports Centre</i>	<i>Braeburn Park</i> (KT) TQ509740	<i>Chislehurst Common</i>
(SY) TQ231766	<i>Brent Cross Shopping Centre</i>	(KT) TQ441703
Barnes Common (SY) TQ224758	(MX) TQ232878	<i>Chiswick House</i> (MX) TQ210775
<i>Barnes Green Pond</i> (SY) TQ219763	Brent Res (MX) TQ215870	<i>Chiswick Park</i> (MX) TQ199787
<i>Barnet Gate Wood</i> (MX) TQ214947	Bricket Wood Common	Chorleywood Common
<i>Barons Pond</i> (MX) TQ189794	(HR) TL130010	(HR) TQ033963
Battersea Park (IL/SY) TQ282772	<i>Bridgehouse Meadows</i>	<i>Church House Gardens, Bromley</i>
Beddington Farmlands	(SY) TQ356777	(KT) TQ401691
(SY) TQ290667	<i>Brook Farm</i> (EX) TQ598871	<i>Churchfields RG</i> (SY) TQ183637
Bedfont Lakes CP (MX) TQ078726	<i>Brooke Wood</i> (MX) TQ307987	<i>City Hall</i> (IL/SY) TQ334801
Beech Farm GP (HR) TL190086	Broxbourne Woods (HR) TL329073	<i>Claremont Landscape Garden</i>
<i>Beech Hill Lake</i> (MX) TQ271971	Buckingham Palace Gardens	(SY) TQ131631
Belhus Woods CP (EX) TQ570825	(IL/MX) TQ288796	Claybury Woods & Park
<i>Bentley</i> (EX) TQ575968	Bulphan Fen (EX) TQ633864	(EX) TQ435912
Bentley Priory (MX) TQ155927	Burgess Park (IL/SY) TQ335778	<i>Clayhill Halls of Residence</i>
<i>Bermondsey</i> (IL/SY) TQ340795	<i>Burgh Heath</i> (SY) TQ236576	(SY) TQ191679
<i>Betchworth Quarry</i> (SY) TQ207512	<i>Burgh Heath Pond</i> (SY) TQ241577	Cobham Floods (SY) TQ106595
<i>Bethnal Green NR</i>	Bury Lake (HR) TQ053938	<i>Cobham Park</i> (SY) TQ111588
(IL/MX) TQ348830	Bushy Park (MX) TQ160690	<i>Cobham Services</i> (SY) TQ111575
<i>Bethune NR</i> (MX) TQ277929	Canada Water (IL/SY) TQ355793	<i>Cockfosters</i> (HR) TQ275964
<i>Bicentenary Gardens, Brunel</i>	<i>Canbury Gardens</i> (SY) TQ179701	<i>Cockfosters Sports Ground</i>
University (MX) TQ060823	Canons Farm (SY) TQ248577	(MX) TQ279966

Cole Green Tip (HR) TL265112	Edgwarebury (MX) TQ187943	Grays Gorge (EX) TQ608789
Colnbrook Landfill (BU) TQ025778	Egham Hythe Lake (SY) TQ026702	Great Myles (EX) TL564012
Common Meadow (SY) TQ157567	Egham Hythe Pond (SY) TQ028698	Green Lane RG (SY) TQ201679
Coopers Green GP (HR) TL201097	Elmbridge OS (SY) TQ202673	Greenland Dock (IL/SY) TQ361791
Coopers Green Lane (HR) TL192096	Eltham Palace (KT) TQ424740	Greenwich Park (KT) TQ390775
Copse Hill (SY) TQ225701	Enderby's Wharf, Greenwich Peninsula (KT) TQ391785	Greenwich PS (KT) TQ388781
Cornmill Meadows (EX) TL380011	Enfield Chase (MX) TQ290988	Grey Goose Farm (EX) TQ629807
Coursers Farm (HR) TL205046	Enfield County School (MX) TQ326967	Grosvenor Waterside (IL/MX) TQ286781
Covert Way LNR (MX) TQ265974	Epping Forest (EX) TQ420985	Gunnersbury Park (MX) TQ185790
Cow Common (SY) TQ146672	Epsom (SY) TQ205605	Gunnersbury Triangle NR (MX) TQ201787
Cranford CP (MX) TQ101776	Epsom Common (SY) TQ190605	Hackney Marsh (MX) TQ366861
Cranham GC (EX) TQ584868	Epsom Downs (SY) TQ219582	Haggerston (IL/MX) TQ340835
Crayford Marshes (KT) TQ532775	Esher Common (SY) TQ135625	Haggerston Park (IL/MX) TQ342832
Creekmouth, Barking (EX) TQ452827	Ewell Court Pond (SY) TQ212638	Hailey (HR) TL368108
Crossness (KT) TQ490808	Fairfield RG (SY) TQ185691	Hainault Forest (EX) TQ476932
Croxley Common Moor (HR) TQ082948	Fairlop Waters (EX) TQ459905	Hall Marsh Scrape (EX) TL373017
Crumps Farm (EX) TL497009	Falconwood (KT) TQ452753	Ham (SY) TQ172720
Crystal Palace Park (KT) TQ347707	Farningham Woods (KT) TQ541681	Ham House (SY) TQ173731
Dacres Wood NR (KT) TQ355721	Farthing Downs (SY) TQ299576	Hammersmith Bridge (MX/SY) TQ230781
Dagenham Chase (EX) TQ514858	Fetcham (SY) TQ145555	Hammersmith Park (MX) TQ231805
Dalston (MX) TQ338847	Fetcham Mill Pond (SY) TQ158562	Hampermill Lake (HR) TQ095942
Damyns Hall Aerodrome (EX) TQ559836	Fir & Pond Woods (MX) TL276011	Hampstead Garden Suburb (MX) TQ258885
Dartford Heath (KT) TQ516733	Fishers Green Goosefield (EX) TL380038	Hampstead Heath (MX) TQ273866
Dartford Marshes (KT) TQ544774	Fishers Green Island (EX) TL376037	Hampton Court Park (MX) TQ166676
Davy Down (EX) TQ592803	Foots Cray Meadows (KT) TQ478715	Hamsey Green (SY) TQ350595
Dawson Heights (SY) TQ343739	Foxley Wood (SY) TQ315606	Hanworth (MX) TQ120720
Denham Lock Wood (BU) TQ055863	Frays Valley LNR (MX) TQ055865	Harlington (MX) TQ087772
Dennis Bland NR (MX) TQ235970	Frays Wildfowl Lake (MX) TQ056864	Harmondsworth Moor (MX) TQ050780
Deptford Park (IL/KT) TQ362782	Frogmore Lakes (HR) TL150033	Harringay (MX) TQ315886
Devereux Lane Pond (SY) TQ228774	Fryent CP (MX) TQ194877	Hatfield Aerodrome (HR) TL205085
Dickerage RG (SY) TQ201690	Fulham Sands End (MX) TQ262758	Hatfield Park (HR) TL240080
Dollis Hill (MX) TQ225865	Galleyhill Wood (EX) TL394034	Havering CP (EX) TQ505930
Downe House (KT) TQ431611	Gallions Reach (EX/KT) TQ445801	Hawk Wood (EX) TQ387956
Duck Wood (EX) TQ555923	Garsons Farm (SY) TQ125639	Hawkwood Estate (KT) TQ440690
Dulwich (SY) TQ335725	Gatton Park/Lake (SY) TQ271525	Hayes Common (KT) TQ405652
Dulwich Park (SY) TQ335735	Gaynes Park (EX) TL484018	Headley (SY) TQ500544
Earlsfield (SY) TQ262734	Glebe Water (SY) TQ358514	Heathfield (SY) TQ354637
East Barnet (HR) TQ278942	Gobions Wood (HR) TL256035	Herne Hill (SY) TQ325744
East Dulwich (SY) TQ343746	Godstone SP (SY) TQ345518	Hersham GP (SY) TQ128663
East India Dock Basin (MX) TQ391808	Gogmore Farm Park (SY) TQ038688	Hertford Union Canal (MX & IL) TQ366837
East Sheen (SY) TQ207747	Goldings Wood (HR) TL360115	Hextable Park (KT) TQ522702
East Sheen Common (SY) TQ195745	Grand Union Canal, Boston Manor (MX) TQ150796	

<i>High Beach Horse Riding Stables</i> (EX) TQ403985	Kew Gardens (SY) TQ182769	Lynsters Lake (HR) TQ038916
Highgate Cemetery (MX) TQ284871	<i>Kew Pond</i> (SY) TQ191776	<i>Manor House Gardens</i> (KT) TQ394749
Highgate Wood (MX) TQ283887	<i>Kilburn Grange Park</i> (IL/MX) TQ251843	Maple Lodge NR (HR) TQ036924
Hilfield Park Res (HR) TQ158959	<i>King Edwards RG</i> (SY) TQ179652	<i>Mar Dyke Causeway</i> (EX) TQ572792
<i>Hillingdon Heath</i> (MX) TQ080820	King George V Dock (EX) TQ432803	Mar Dyke Valley (EX) TQ600805
Hilly Fields Park (MX) TQ323985	King George V Res (EX) TQ374964	<i>Marble Hill Park</i> (MX) TQ173737
Hoddesdonpark Wood (HR) TL352084	King George VI Res (MX) TQ041732	<i>Meath Gardens</i> (IL/MX) TQ358828
<i>Hog Hill, Enfield</i> (MX) TQ305975	<i>King George's Field, Ham</i> (SY) TQ170729	<i>Middlesex University</i> (MX) TQ288955
<i>Hogsmill OS</i> (SY) TQ208638	<i>Kingsmead Quarry</i> (BU) TQ003756	<i>Mill Hill Cemetery</i> (MX) TQ231918
Hogsmill SW (SY) TQ197682	<i>Kingston College</i> (SY) TQ180689	<i>Mill Hill Park</i> (MX) TQ221918
<i>Holloway</i> (MX) TQ305860	<i>Kingston Hospital</i> (SY) TQ196697	<i>Mill Pond, Addlestone</i> (SY) TQ060641
Holmethorpe SP (SY) TQ295515	Knighthood Wood (EX) TQ409931	Millwall Docks (MX) TQ377795
Holyfield Hall Farm (EX) TL384038	<i>Knights Park Campus, Kingston</i> <i>University</i> (SY) TQ184688	<i>Mitcham</i> (SY) TQ282686
Holyfield Lake (EX) TL378045	Lake Farm CP (MX) TQ091803	<i>Moat Farm</i> (SY) TQ425506
Home Park (MX) TQ166676	<i>Lakeside Retail Park</i> (EX) TQ582788	<i>Molesey</i> (SY) TQ152685
<i>Hook Farm Allotments</i> (KT) TQ416676	Lamorby Park (KT) TQ465731	<i>Molesey Heath</i> (SY) TQ132672
<i>Hornsey</i> (MX) TQ305890	<i>Latchmere RG</i> (SY) TQ186708	<i>Malesey Industrial Estate</i> (SY) TQ128688
Horsenden Hill (MX) TQ162844	<i>Latton Wood</i> (EX) TL470072	Mollands Lane GP (EX) TQ604820
<i>Horton Haven</i> (SY) TQ196620	<i>Leatherhead Common</i> (SY) TQ158594	<i>Monken Hadley Common</i> (MX) TQ262971
<i>Houndsden Gutter</i> (MX) TQ317951	<i>Lee Valley Riding Centre</i> (EX) TQ358872	<i>Moor Place GC</i> (SY) TQ132643
<i>Hungerford Bridge</i> (IL/MX/SY) TQ306802	Leemouth (MX) TQ394807	<i>Morden</i> (SY) TQ255680
<i>Husseywell OS</i> (KT) TQ402661	Leg O Mutton NR (SY) TQ218774	Morden Hall Park (SY) TQ264687
Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens (IL/MX) TQ274804	<i>Leigh Place Waters</i> (SY) TQ361509	Mores Plantation (EX) TQ566968
Ingrebourne Valley (EX) TQ538843	<i>Lesnes Abbey Wood</i> (KT) TQ478785	<i>Mortlake</i> (SY) TQ205758
Island Barn Res (SY) TQ140670	Letchmore Heath (HR) TQ155977	<i>Motspur Park</i> (SY) TQ225674
<i>Islington Cemetery</i> (MX) TQ272907	<i>Lewisham Park</i> (KT) TQ381746	<i>Mottingham</i> (KT) TQ422727
Jersey Farm (HR) TL174097	Leyton Flats (EX) TQ397885	<i>Mount End</i> (EX) TL482010
Joyden's Wood (KT) TQ500715	Limpsfield Chart (SY) TQ431521	Mudchute Farm (MX) TQ381786
Jubilee Gardens (IL/SY) TQ307800	Lion Gorge (EX) TQ599786	<i>Muswell Hill GC</i> (MX) TQ290911
<i>Juniper Bottom</i> (SY) TQ177529	Lippitts Hill (EX) TQ392976	<i>Mutton Brook</i> (MX) TQ260889
<i>Juniper Hall</i> (SY) TQ174527	<i>Little Beechill Wood</i> (MX) TQ287991	<i>National Archives, Kew</i> (SY) TQ196773
Kelsey Park (KT) TQ376688	Littlebrook Lake (KT) TQ553756	<i>Nazeing</i> (EX) TL414065
Kemnal Manor College (KT) TQ447721	<i>Littleheath Woods</i> (SY) TQ351627	<i>Nazeing CP</i> (EX) TL387057
Kempton NR (MX) TQ116706	<i>Lloyd Park, Walthamstow</i> (EX) TQ371901	<i>Nazeing Meads</i> (EX) TL386076
<i>Kempton Park Race Course</i> (MX) TQ113701	London Wetland Centre (SY) TQ228770	<i>NE Surrey College of Technology</i> (SY) TQ224618
<i>Kempton Park Water Works</i> (MX) TQ111710	Long Running (EX) TQ434997	<i>New Barnet</i> (HR) TQ262960
<i>Kennington</i> (IL/SY) TQ308778	<i>Lord's Cricket Ground</i> (IL/MX) TQ268828	<i>New Haw</i> (SY) TQ054630
<i>Kennington Park, Kennington</i> (IL/SY) TQ314777	<i>Lower Kingswood</i> (SY) TQ249537	<i>New River Walk</i> (IL/MX) TQ322847
<i>Kew</i> (SY) TQ192767	Lullingstone Park (KT) TQ520645	<i>Newbury Park</i> (EX) TQ450883
<i>Kew Bridge</i> (MX/SY) TQ190778	Lynsters Farm (HR) TQ034920	<i>Norbinton</i> (SY) TQ195694
		<i>North Mymms Park</i> (HR) TL215045
		<i>North Ockendon</i> (EX) TQ588851
		<i>North Wembley</i> (MX) TQ169868

Northaw Great Wood (HR) TL285044	Queen's Wood (MX) TQ288886	Row Town (SY) TQ039638
Northfields (MX) TQ171792	R Darent, Otford Road (KT) TQ526582	Rowdown Wood (SY) TQ390630
Northolt & Greenford CP (MX) TQ130836	R Thames: Battersea Bridge to Vauxhall Bridge (IL/SY, SY) TQ288776	Rowley Farm, Borehamwood (HR) TQ211980
Notre Dame Preparatory School (SY) TQ098616	R Thames: Chertsey Bridge to Laleham (SY) TQ052676	Royal Mid-Surrey GC (SY) TQ177756
Nunhead (SY) TQ353760	R Thames: Kew to Richmond (SY) TQ178766	Ruislip Woods (MX) TQ094890
Nutfield (SY) TQ305505	R Thames: Putney Bridge to Battersea Bridge (SY, IL/SY) TQ261757	Rushett Farm (SY) TQ173608
Old Coulsdon (SY) TQ315575	R Thames: Teddington to Kingston (SY) TQ179705	Ruskin Park (SY) TQ325758
Old Farm (EX) TQ447940	R Thames: Walton Bridge to R Wey (MX) TQ082660	Russia Dock Woodland (IL/SY) TQ362797
Orsett Fen (EX) TQ628833	R Wandle: Carshalton to Mill Close (SY) TQ282652	Ruxley GP (KT) TQ473700
Otford to Filston (KT) TQ521602	R Wandle: Goat Bridge to Mitcham Bridge (SY) TQ275673	Rye Meads (HR) TL383103
Oxhey Hall (HR) TQ103943	R Wandle: Mill Close to Beddington Park (SY) TQ288652	Scearne Bank (SY) TQ430516
Oxhey Woods (HR) TQ105925	R Wandle: Mitcham Bridge to Morden Hall Tram Crossing (SY) TQ265682	Seething Wells (SY) TQ174673
Oxleas Meadows (KT) TQ439759	Radlett Aero GP (HR) TL155035	Selsdon Woods (SY) TQ362616
Oxleas Wood (KT) TQ445759	Rainham Marshes (EX) TQ525800	Sevenoaks WR (KT) TQ522570
Oxshott Heath (SY) TQ139612	Rammey Marsh (MX) TQ374996	Seventy Acres Lake (HR) TL374030
Oxted SP (SY) TQ373523	Randalls Park (SY) TQ156570	Sewardstone Marsh (EX) TQ379985
Paddington RG (IL/MX) TQ266819	Red House Res (MX) TQ121702	Sheen Common (SY) TQ196746
Pages Farm, Elstree (HR) TQ163962	Redhill Common (SY) TQ273497	Shooters Hill (KT) TQ438769
Panshanger Park (HR) TL283130	Regent's Park (IL/MX) TQ281828	Shortlands (KT) TQ395688
Paradise Park (MX) TQ310850	Richmond (SY) TQ185745	Sidmouth Park (EX) TQ382866
Park Wood GC (SY) TQ421562	Richmond Park (SY) TQ200730	Sir Joseph Hood Memorial RG (SY) TQ227673
Penge (KT) TQ353701	Rickmansworth Aquadrome (HR) TQ057940	Sixty Acre Wood (SY) TQ166622
Perivale Wood (MX) TQ159836	Ridgeway Park (EX) TQ379937	Smallford GP (HR) TL197071
Perry Street Farm (KT) TQ518755	Ripple NR (EX) TQ468827	South Barvin Farm (MX) TQ282997
Plumstead (KT) TQ451787	Riverside Walk Central (KT) TQ478737	South Ealing (MX) TQ176794
Plumstead Common (KT) TQ457780	Roding Valley Meadows NR (EX) TQ430943	South Merstham (SY) TQ293523
Polish War Memorial (MX) TQ110846	Roehampton University (SY) TQ221747	South Norwood CP (SY) TQ353684
Poplar Dock (MX) TQ382803	Rook's Nest Pond (SY) TQ362522	South Norwood Lake (SY) TQ341693
Postman's Park (IL/MX) TQ321814	Rose Walk OS (SY) TQ201680	South Norwood RG (SY) TQ337679
Poyle Poplars NR (BU) TQ030764	Roughalley's Wood (EX) TL478033	South Ockenden Hall (EX) TQ602832
Prae Wood (HR) TL121068		Southall Park (MX) TQ132802
Priest Hill (SY) TQ230619		Southwark Park (IL/SY) TQ352789
Prince's Coverts (SY) TQ160610		Spencer Road Wetland (SY) TQ279665
Princess of Wales Pond, Blackheath (KT) TQ398765		Squerryes Court Gardens (KT) TQ442534
Priory Gardens (KT) TQ468667		St James's Park (IL/MX) TQ294798
Purfleet Chalk Pits (EX) TQ566785		St John's Wood (IL/MX) TQ266834
Purley Beeches (SY) TQ330619		St John's Wood Church Grounds LNR (IL/MX) TQ271829
Putney (SY) TQ237748		St Katherine's Dock (IL/MX) TQ340805
Queen Elizabeth II Res (SY) TQ120670		St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cemetery (EX) TQ387862
Queen Mary Res (MX) TQ070695		
Queen Mother Res (BU) TQ007768		
Queen's Road Cemetery (SY) TQ323674		

<i>St Paul's Cray</i>	(KT) TQ466688	The Withey Beds LNR	(HR) TQ078941	Warleys Park	(EX) TL412017
<i>St Thomas' Hospital</i>	(IL/SY) TQ307795	Theobalds Park	(HR) TL345005	Warren Gorge	(EX) TQ597794
Staines Moor	(MX) TQ033734	Thorndon CP North	(EX) TQ608912	Warren Hill	(EX) TQ413952
Staines Res	(MX) TQ051731	Thorndon CP South	(EX) TQ627903	<i>Watercress LNR</i>	(HR) TL154061
Stanborough Lakes	(HR) TL230108	<i>Thorpe Hay Meadow</i>	(SY) TQ032705	<i>Waterloo Bridge</i>	(IL/MX/SY) TQ308805
Stanmore Common	(MX) TQ156940	Thorpe Water Park	(SY) TQ030681	Waterlow Park	(MX) TQ286872
Stanmore CP	(MX) TQ173928	<i>Three Mills Green</i>	(EX) TQ383830	Waterworks NR	(EX) TQ363868
<i>Stanmore Little Common</i>	(MX) TQ165933	<i>Tiffin Girls' School</i>	(SY) TQ181710	<i>Wealdstone</i>	(MX) TQ160896
<i>Stanmore RG</i>	(MX) TQ170926	Tolworth Court Farm	(SY) TQ200650	<i>Wellfield Plantation</i>	(SY) TQ275627
Stanstead Innings	(HR) TL388112	<i>Tooting</i>	(SY) TQ279705	West End Common	(SY) TQ125632
Stanwell Moor	(MX) TQ034744	Tooting Common	(SY) TQ293720	West Hyde GP	(HR) TQ034913
<i>Stationers Park</i>	(MX) TQ308884	Tottenham Marshes	(MX) TQ354910	West India Docks	(MX) TQ376800
<i>Steven's Eyot</i>	(SY) TQ179703	Totteridge Valley	(MX) TQ240930	<i>West Norwood</i>	(SY) TQ319719
Stocker's Farm	(HR) TQ052933	Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park	(MX) TQ370823	<i>West Park Hospital</i>	(SY) TQ185612
Stocker's Lake	(HR) TQ046935	Trent Park	(MX) TQ290970	West Thurrock Marshes	(EX) TQ583767
<i>Stokes Field LNR</i>	(SY) TQ167659	<i>Trent Park Equestrian Centre</i>	(MX) TQ296962	<i>West Wickham</i>	(KT) TQ389658
Stone Marshes	(KT) TQ568755	Trevereux	(SY) TQ433509	<i>Westcombe Park</i>	(KT) TQ402780
<i>Stoneleigh</i>	(SY) TQ222642	Troy Mill Lake	(HR) TQ039905	<i>Westminster Bridge</i>	(IL/MX/SY) TQ304797
<i>Strawberry Hill</i>	(SY) TQ150720	<i>Truss's Island</i>	(SY) TQ034699	<i>Wey Manor Meadows</i>	(SY) TQ060632
Streatham Common	(SY) TQ305709	<i>Twychells Farm</i>	(HR) TL100042	<i>Whetstone</i>	(HR) TQ255937
Stubbers Adventure Centre	(EX) TQ575845	Tytenhanger GP	(HR) TL191052	<i>White Hill</i>	(SY) TQ185536
<i>Sue Godfrey Nature Park</i>	(KT) TQ374774	Valentines Park	(EX) TQ438878	Whitewebbs Wood	(MX) TQ323997
<i>Sunbury GC</i>	(MX) TQ083682	Vauxhall Park	(IL/SY) TQ304776	<i>Whitton</i>	(SY) TQ144739
<i>Sunray Gardens</i>	(SY) TQ327747	<i>Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens</i>	(IL/SY) TQ306781	Willowbank	(MX) TQ057853
<i>Surbiton FB</i>	(SY) TQ193684	Verulamium Park	(HR) TL138069	<i>Willowtree Marina, Yeading</i>	(MX) TQ124815
Surrey Water	(IL/SY) TQ356800	Vicarage Farm	(MX) TQ304979	<i>Wilmington</i>	(KT) TQ531719
<i>Swakeleys Park</i>	(MX) TQ073859	Victoria Park	(IL/MX) TQ363840	Wimbledon Common	(SY) TQ227721
<i>Swanley Village</i>	(KT) TQ527696	Waddon Ponds	(SY) TQ309650	<i>Winey Hill</i>	(SY) TQ171629
Swanscombe Marshes	(KT) TQ605760	Walthamstow Forest	(EX) TQ313912	<i>Wood Green</i>	(MX) TQ315905
Symondshyde Great Wood	(HR) TL195110	Walthamstow Marshes	(EX) TQ350878	<i>Wood Wharf, Isle of Dogs</i>	(MX) TQ381801
Syon Park	(MX) TQ173765	Walthamstow Res	(EX) TQ353890	<i>Woodcote</i>	(SY) TQ205595
<i>Tadworth</i>	(SY) TQ231561	Walton Downs	(SY) TQ220573	<i>Woodhall Farm</i>	(HR) TL235106
<i>Tatsfield</i>	(SY) TQ415570	Walton Heath	(SY) TQ232540	<i>Woodman Road Cemetery</i>	(EX) TQ597923
<i>Teddington</i>	(MX) TQ160708	Walton Res	(SY) TQ122685	Woodoaks Farm	(HR) TQ033933
Tenchleys	(SY) TQ419512	Wandle Meadow Nature Park	(SY) TQ264710	Wormwood Scrubs	(MX) TQ221818
Thames Barrier	(EX/KT) TQ415795	<i>Wandsworth</i>	(SY) TQ259750	Wraysbury GP	(BU) TQ015735
Thames Chase	(EX) TQ584863	Wandsworth Common	(SY) TQ275740	Wraysbury Res	(MX) TQ025745
<i>Thames Ditton Island</i>	(SY) TQ162674	Wanstead Flats	(EX) TQ410864	Yeading Brook Meadows	(MX) TQ105822
Thamesmere Lakes	(KT) TQ460807	Wanstead Park	(EX) TQ415875	<i>Yiewsley Lake</i>	(MX) TQ050804
<i>The Commons LNR</i>	(HR) TL259110	Warley CP	(EX) TQ583925		
The Ledges, Esher	(SY) TQ122628				
The Mores	(EX) TQ561965				

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2013

Highlights included London's third Bonaparte's Gull, sixth Kumlien's Gull, eighth Rose-coloured Starling, eighth and ninth Glossy Ibis, tenth Common Rosefinch and 11th Green-winged Teal. Other scarcities included Sabine's Gulls, Red-rumped Swallows, Buff-bellied Pipits, Hoopoes, Ferruginous Duck, Pectoral Sandpiper, two Phalaropes, three Skuas, White-winged Black Tern, Spotted Crakes, Cranes, Stone-curlews, Yellow-browed Warbler, Siberian Chiffchaff, Montagu's Harrier and both Red-backed and Great Grey Shrikes. Notable flocks of Ruffs, Hawfinches, Mediterranean Gulls and Spoonbills were recorded, as were good numbers of Slavonian Grebes, Great Egrets, Red Kites, Marsh Harriers, Peregrines and Hobby. It was a poor year for Shags, Little Terns, Woodlarks, Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers and, inevitably, Ruddy Ducks. Good Inner London records included two popular Bearded Tits and a Grasshopper Warbler (the first since 1997).

The year started with mild weather before a cold spell hit in late January. This brought influxes of Skylarks and Fieldfares, with high counts of Snipe and Woodcock. The two Buff-bellied Pipits remained from 2012 into January, as did numbers of Waxwings. Some 55 Smew were recorded over the period. A count of 32 Rock Pipits at Rainham was the highest since 1971. Wintering warblers featured, with good numbers of Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps joined by a Common Whitethroat and a Willow Warbler. King George VI Res hosted three diver species.

Spring was exceptionally cold: snow in the first half of March interrupted passage. Nevertheless, the month saw London's earliest Sandwich Tern and early dates for Common Tern and Cuckoo, though it was the first March since 1997 without a Swallow. Passage picked up in April: highlights included influxes of Common Redstarts, Wheatears and Whinchats on 15th, and London's first spring Long-tailed Skua and earliest Quail. Remarkable Hawfinch numbers were at Juniper Bottom.

Summer was warm. As ever, inconsistent records make it challenging to assess breeding trends. Many wildfowl enjoyed successful seasons, and Egyptian Geese achieved their highest ever number of broods. At least 15 breeding pairs of Peregrines produced a total of 38 juveniles. Stonechats bred at Rainham, four pairs of Black-necked Grebes bred at Hilfield Park Res and Avocets bred for the first time since 2008. In contrast, Tree Sparrows crashed at Beddington, while long-term declines continued for House Sparrow, Grey Partridge, Grey Heron, Turtle Dove and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. Fewer singing Black Redstarts and Nightingales were recorded.

Autumn saw four records of Turtle Doves and five of Wrynecks. Garganey were reported from 17 sites. Redwing passage peaked from October 10th-12th, Starlings passed through between October 19th and November 16th while exceptional Wood Pigeon passage between October 29th (following a storm on 28th) and November 16th included two records of over 50,000 birds. November saw London's latest Common Tern, and an arrival of Woodcock from 9th.

In the second winter period, wintering Chiffchaff numbers increased again, but no Waxwings invaded.

January: The year started with the two Buff-Bellied Pipits at Q. Mother Res, a Long-eared Owl at Dagenham Chase and a Goosander and Scaup at Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens. On 2nd, a year-high 2,000 Lapwings were at Rainham (also on 8th), with 3,000 Starlings and seven Peregrines there. Glaucous Gulls were recorded at Gallions Reach, Beddington and Amwell, while Iceland Gulls were at Rainham, Q. Mother Res and Beddington. Merlins were at Rainham and Crayford. A Siberian Chiffchaff was at Rye Meads from 3rd to 5th, while six Short-eared Owls were at KGV Res and Staines Moor on 6th and 8th. There was also a Hen Harrier at Chipstead on 6th. On 11th, two Bearded Tits were at Hyde Park (staying till February 17th), and a Willow Warbler was found with 17 Chiffchaffs at Troy Mill Lake. A year-high 73 Mandarin Ducks were at Connaught Water on 15th. Cold weather records included some 30 Bewick's Swans over Walthamstow Res on 19th, three White-fronted Geese over Wormwood Scrubs and eight Golden Plovers over Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens on 20th, 18 Lapwings over that site and 1,192 Fieldfares over Staines Moor on 22nd, while a Snow Bunting was at Blackheath on the latter date. A Merlin was at Crayford on 21st, followed by one at Rainham on 23rd. A year-high 27 Smew were at Wraysbury GP on 25th, while a Hen Harrier was at Kempton, Staines Moor and Stanwell Moor. This bird was seen again at the two moors the next day, and at Q. Mother Res on 27th. A Common Whitethroat was in Sidmouth Park on 26th. All three regular diver species were at KGV Res on 28th. On 29th, a Glaucous Gull was at Amwell, and an Iceland Gull was at Rainham on 31st. A Ferruginous Duck was found at Danson Park on 31st, staying till February 1st.

February: On 1st, four Long-eared Owls were at Beddington. An Iceland Gull was in the Crayford/Dartford area on 8th, followed by records at Q. Mother Res on 16th and 18th. On 16th, a Woodlark was at Leyton and seven Water Pipits were at Staines Moor. The Hyde Park Bearded Tits relocated to Regent's Park on 18th-19th. A Long-eared Owl was at Chelsham on 20th, while a Hen Harrier was at Rainham on 22nd, staying till March.

March: An Iceland Gull was at Q. Mother Res from 5th-13th, while one was at Crayford/Dartford on 12th. A Goshawk was at Kempton NR on 6th. On 9th, Brent Goose records included 65 down the Thames, while ten Green Sandpipers were at Beddington. From 9th to April 2nd, up to 130 Hawfinches frequented Juniper Bottom. A year-high 11 Corn Buntings were at Orsett Fen on 14th. On 18th, a Long-eared Owl was at Sewardstone Marsh, while on 19th a Woodlark was at Wanstead Flats. On 20th, a White-fronted Goose was at KGV Res. A flock of 50 Ruff was at Rainham on 22nd. On 24th, a Stone-curlew was at Wanstead Flats (with another at Colnbrook on 29th), and four Common Scoters were at Rainham. On 30th, a year-high 11 Little Ringed Plovers were at Staines Res, with nine at Dartford. The 31st saw year-highs of Goldeneyes (76 at Staines Res) and Curlews (50 at Rainham).

April: 18 Grey Plovers at Rainham on 5th were the highest spring count. On 6th, 478 Chaffinches flew over Rye Meads and 397 over Brent Res, while eight Bramblings were over Clapham Common and a Stone-curlew was at Horsenden Hill. A Green-winged Teal found at Crossness on 12th remained in the area until 28th. A Woodlark was at Canons Farm on 13th and 20th. On 14th, a Common Quail was at Fairlop Waters and a Goshawk was at South Woodford. An exciting day on 15th saw a Cuckoo at Holland Park, a Hoopoe at Tyttenhanger, a Nightingale singing outside McDonalds in Poplar Dock, Common Redstarts

at 19 sites, Whinchats at six sites, and good numbers of Wheatears (including 44 at Richmond Park). On 21st, a Shag was at South Bank, a Hoopoe was at Brent Res, a Tree Pipit and Grasshopper Warbler were at Regent's Park and 22 Yellow Wagtails were at Rainham. Two Hobby were at Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens on 24th, while a Wood Warbler was at Russia Dock Woodland. Little Gull numbers reached 17 at both Island Barn and Staines Res on 25th, while a Ring Ouzel was at Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens. Raptors featured on 28th, with an Osprey over St Martin's Lane and a Hen Harrier at Rye Meads. On 29th, a Quail was at Hatfield Aerodrome.

May: A Wood Warbler was at Hammersmith Cemetery on 3rd. On 6th, 14 Whimbrel were at Rainham. Buzzard movements saw ten over Canons Farm on 6th and 17 over Richmond Park on 7th. There was also a Honey Buzzard at Richmond Park on 7th. A spring-high 54 Common Terns were at KGV Res on 9th. On 10th, a Merlin was at Chafford Hundred. A Little Stint was at Rainham on 12th, with two there on 14th. A Red-rumped Swallow was at Beddington on 12th, with a further record there on 24th-25th. On 15th, 3,000 Swifts were at Staines Res and a Cuckoo was at Regent's Park. A Marsh Harrier was seen from Tower 42 on 16th. A spring-high 20 Hobby were at Rainham on 19th and a Honey Buzzard was at Alexandra Park. On 22nd, two Roseate Terns were at Q. Mother Res. A Long-tailed Skua was at Q. Mother Res on 24th. On 25th, a Montagu's Harrier was at Rye Meads. A Red-backed Shrike was at London Wetland Centre on 25th and 26th.

June: Two singing Marsh Warblers were at Rainham from 8th-21st and three Little Stints were there on 15th. On 9th, a Rose-coloured Starling was at Lower Edmonton. A Roseate Tern was at Staines Res and Q. Mother Res on 10th.

July: A Roseate Tern was at QE II Res on 2nd and a Golden Oriole flew over Wraybury GP. A Woodlark was at a former breeding site in Surrey on 6th, and a Bonaparte's Gull was at Crossness on that day and the next, when a Goshawk was at Roydon. A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Rainham from 11th-19th, and a year-high 53 Little Egrets were there on 21st. Four Common Scoters were at Staines Res on 25th. On 28th, a Gannet was at Wraybury Res and 14 Whimbrel were over Staines Res.

August: On 6th, a year-high 116 Yellow-legged Gulls were at Dartford, while 20 Green Sandpipers were at Beddington. A Honey Buzzard was over Woolwich Common on 22nd, while a Red-necked Phalarope was at KGV Res from 23rd-24th. On 24th, an adult Great Skua was at Staines Res and a juvenile was at Q. Mother Res; two Wood Sandpipers were at Rainham, while Common Tern numbers reached 110 at Crossness. Black Tern passage peaked on 24th-25th, with 45 at Grays Riverside, while a year-high 48 Arctic Terns were at Rainham on 25th. A Quail was at Wanstead Flats on 24th-25th. On 25th, three or four Sabine's Gulls were at Rainham, a White-winged Black Tern was at Q. Mary Res, seven Little Gulls were at Dartford, an Arctic Skua was at Barking Bay and Rainham, and 20 Turnstones were over Q. Mother Res. Yellow Wagtail passage peaked on 26th, with 96 records. On 27th, another Sabine's Gull was seen, this one at Q. Mother Res. A Wryneck was at KGV Res on 28th, another at Cudham on 29th, followed by a third at Alexandra Park on 30th-31st. On 30th, a Common Snipe and a Green Sandpiper were both at Regent's Park. A Spotted Crake was at Dagenham Chase on 31st.

September: On 2nd, a Honey Buzzard was at Canons Farm. On 3rd, there was an autumn-high count of nine Hobby at Rainham, with eight at Richmond Park, while a Tree Pipit

was at Regent's Park (another was there on 16th). A Wryneck was at Wanstead Flats from 3rd-9th. On 7th, a Hen Harrier was at Rainham (with another record there on 15th and one at Brook Farm on 23rd). A Red-necked Phalarope was at Q. Mother Res on 8th, while a Common Rosefinch was at Wormwood Scrubs on that day and the next. A Merlin was at Q. Mother Res on 9th. Six Spoonbills, seen over West Putney and then Richmond Park on 12th, were a record count. On 15th, some 5,000 hirundines were at Staines Res, Meadow Pipit numbers reached 160 over Regent's Park and 120 over Hampstead Heath, while a Hen Harrier was at Rainham. On 19th, two Cranes were at Beddington. On 21st, over 200 Sand Martins were at Staines Res, while 3,417 Swallows were counted passing over Wraybury Res in two hours on 22nd. A Merlin was trapped at Stanwell Moor on 23rd. On 24th, a Red-backed Shrike and 22 Yellow Wagtails were at Colnbrook. On 29th, a Jack Snipe was at Regent's Park, four Sandwich Terns were at Walthamstow Res, and a Fulmar was at Gallions Reach/Crossness, staying till 30th.

October: On 1st, nine Spoonbills were at London Wetland Centre. A Wryneck was at Hyde Park on 2nd. A Little Stint was at Crayford on 4th-5th, when a Guillemot was near Gallions Reach. A Marsh Harrier was over Portobello Road on 5th and a Great Egret was at Beddington. On 7th, a Woodlark was at Hangman's Wood. On 10th, 2,750 Redwing flew over Regent's Park, and on 11th a Pink-footed Goose was at Amwell (with further records until 15th). A Merlin was at East India Dock Basin on 12th and a Hen Harrier at Staines Moor, while a Gannet was at South Norwood CP on 14th. From 15th-16th, a Red-necked Grebe was at Pen Ponds in Richmond Park. On 18th, a Great Grey Shrike was at Rye Meads, where Common Snipe reached a year-high of 235 on 19th. A Grey Phalarope was at Hilfield Park Res on 28th-29th, while a Lesser Whitethroat was at Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park on the latter date. An Arctic Skua passed Rainham on 30th (and another on November 1st).

November: On 1st, two Bearded Tits were at Hyde Park. A Glossy Ibis was at Tyttenhanger GP on 3rd, followed by one at Fishers Green, then Rye Meads (staying to 13th). On 5th, a year-high 400 Golden Plovers were at Rainham. Two Shags were at Q. Mother Res from 5th-22nd and one at Old Slade Lake on 18th and 20th. A Merlin was at Rainham on 6th (staying to December 18th) while a Gannet flew east at QE II Res and a Yellow-browed Warbler was at Holmethorpe SP. On 8th, a year-high 60 Lesser Redpolls were at Leyton Flats. Starling movements on 9th totalled 2,767 over five sites and a Great Egret was at Wraybury GP. On 10th, 625 Linnets were at Canons Farm and seven Whooper Swans landed on Staines Res. On 13th, 562 Fieldfares flew over London Wetland Centre. A Hen Harrier was at Sidcup on 16th. On 21st, two Bewick's Swans were at Rainham, while on 22nd a Red-necked Grebe was at Thorpe Water Park. Burgess Park saw the regular Mediterranean Gull back on 25th, and a Jack Snipe on 28th.

December: Iceland Gulls were at Q. Mother Res (on 1st) and Beddington (from 9th). A Siberian Chiffchaff was recorded at Stocker's Lake on several dates from 6th. On 7th, a Hen Harrier was at Swanscombe. On 12th, a year-high 52 Avocets were at West Thurrock, while a year-high 520 Black-tailed Godwits were at Rainham on 15th. A Kumlien's Gull was at QE II Res on 25th, while Boxing Day saw a year-high 170 Great Black-backed Gulls at Amwell.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

All contributors of ornithological records to the Society in 2013 are listed below. We apologise if any names have been omitted inadvertently.

Abrahams D	Bacon S	Bird Group	Bloys I	Brough C
Ackroyd R	Bagott D	BFBG	Bloys R	Brown A
Adams AT	Bailey A	Bedfont Lakes	Blumire J	Brown E
Agar J	Bailey J	Bird Report	Bodini L	Brown P
Agar N	Baker A	Bee P	Bodman L	Brown T
Agombar D	Baker D	Bell AA	Boland P	Browne A & N
Akhurst J	Baker H	Bell D	Bonser RH	Browne R
Akrill S	Baker T	Bell R	Boorman H	Brownsell T
Aldred D	Ball P	Bell T	Booth D	Bryant P
Aldrich L	Ballard J	Benbow A	Boreham S	BTO WeBS Unit
Alfrey PR	Banes J	Bennell I	Bosch D	Buckel FC
Allcorn L	Banks CM	Bennett B	Bostock H	Buckel V
Allday S	Banks R	Bennett K	Boudeau K	Buckell S
Allen C	Barber M	Bennett L	Boulby M	Buckingham S
Allen D	Barfoot A	Benton D	Boult P	Budd W
Allen K	Barker A	Berks Bird News	Bound D	Bull K
Ambler LEF	Barker T	Berks Birds	Bournat M	Bunce S
Amer R	Barlow R	website	Bowden C	Burbanks M
Anderson B	Barnes A	Bessant C	Bowman N	Burch J
Anderson L	Barnes GJ	Bessant N	Bowtell M	Burchell C
Anderson N	Barnes J	Betton K	Boxell F	Burchell T
Andrews D	Barnes R	Bew N	Boyce D	Burden M
Andrews M	Barnett D	Bezuidenhoat D	Boyle D	Burgess D
Angus P	Barnett M	Biezeman C	Bradley S	Burgess M
Annand N	Barrett D	Biggs A	Bradnum D	Burgess R
Anstee MC	Barrow K	Bignold S	Bradshaw D	Burgum N
Alexandra Park	Barry S	Bingley J	Bradshaw HT HTB	Burkett D
Ornithological	Barter G	Birch D	Bradshaw I	Burrows-Smith P
Group	Bartlett P	Birch K	Brandon M	Burton H
Archer JK	Bassett AD	Birch M	Brandwood K	Bushell J
Archer L	Bast D	Bird C	Braun M	Butler AK
Arnold R	Bater S	Bird E	Breeze P	Butler J
Arthur S	Bates D	BirdGuides	Bremner J & W	Butler M
Ashken L	Bates T	Birkett J	Bremner JW	Butson P
Astley H	Batten LAB	Birks A	Briggs D	Cackett F
Astley J	Batten N	Bishop B	Briggs P	Cadera J
Austin B	Beach C	Bishop W	Bright A	Caiden M
Austin J	Beale J	Blackburn D	Bright-Thomas P	Caine G
Austin M	Beaney VR	Blackmore B	Brindle J	Caine T
Avis DV	Beard L	Blades R	Bristow T	Calder D
Avison G	Beatley M	Blake AE	Brockett R	Caldwell S
Ayers R	Beazley C	Blake L	Brook R	Callahan C
Aylen P	Beckenham P	Blake S	Brooks C	Callahan D
Ayres D	Beddard R	Blatcher P	Brooks E	Callf RM
Baber R	Beddington Farm	Blow M	Broom F	RMC
				Camp J

Campbell DK DCa	Churches B	BCh	Cope H		Delaloye P		Edwards EY	
Canny G	Churchill R		Cousins R		Denison N		Edwards I	
Capman J	Clancy A		Covill B		Dennis R	RD	Edwards J	
Capper D	Clark BAJ		Cowie S	SCw	Dent A		Edwards P	
Capper I	Clark D		Cox A		Dent M	MD	Eland M	
Carlill P	Clark FC		Cox G		Depledge D		East London	
Carmichael J	Clark J		Cox J		Derbyshire I		Birders Forum	
Carolan K	Clark JM		Cox P		Dewey RA		Elders C	
Carpenter C	Clark K		Cox S		Dewhurst O		Eldridge D	
Carr G	Clark N		Crabtree G		Dick T		Eldridge T	
Carruthers P	Clark T		Cramer K		Dickens J		Ellam C	
Carter D	Clark V		Crane T		Dickens K		Elliott	
Carter L	Clarke D		Crew E		Dickerson J		Ellis IS	
Carter SJ	Clarke JR		Cripps B		Digby J		Ellis R	
Carter T	Clarke T		Cripps RJ		Dingain L	LD	Elmes J-P	
Cassell R	Clarkson J		Crockford S		Ditzell P		Elsoffer M	
Casselton PJ	Cleal D		Croft N	NC	Dixon J		Elton P	
Castree A	Clements-		Crooks B		Dixon M		Elvin M	
Castro F	Partridge A		Crowley PJ		Dobbie J		Emery D	
Catlin SA	Clench K		Croydon Birders		Dodd N		England R	
Catt G	Clews BD		Croydon RSPB		Donetti A		English P	
Cawthorne M	Cliffe P		Group		Dorman A		Enright S	
CFBW birders	Clifford M		Crump D		Doubleday A		Erickson-Hull D	
Chaffe M	Coates A		Cuff MJ		Doughty A		Evans E	
Chalmers S	Coath M	MCh	Culshaw A	AJC	Dowle J		Evans H	
Chamberlain C	Cochrane I		Cumber J		Dowling D		Evans LGR	
Chambers D	Coe H		Cumming L		Dowling R		Evans S	
Chambers H	Coldrey D		Cunningham G		Dowman S		Evershed R	
Chambers V	Cole FA		Cunningham M		Downing AJ		Ewan J	
Chapman D	Cole G		Curtis A		Drake S		Facer R	
Chapman J	Coleman B		Curtis D		Draper R		Fagen B	
Chapman K	Coleman DA	DAC	Czapski S	SCz	Drew R		Fair G	
Chapman P	Coleman J		Dack D	DD	Drewitt E		Fairweather C	
Chapman R	Coleman P		Daly J		Driver PW		Fanning M	
Chard J	Colemans J		Daniel M		Drummond L		Farrell C	
Charles G	Collings H		Daniels S		Dryden R		Farrell M	
Charles M	Collins D		Darbyshire I		Duckett AR	ARD	Fearnside J	
Charles P	Collins P		Darrell-Lambert D		Duffield I		Featherstone R	
Charlton K	Collins S			DGDL	Duhrsen R		Feltham A	
Charman D	Colmans J		Davies JW		Dummigan F		Fenton H	
Charvet A	Colson R		Davies KW		Duncan KP		Ferguson M	
Chasteauneuf P	Combes D		Davies P	PD	Dungey S		Ferris P	
Chastell S	Condon M		Davies R		Dunnet G		Few J	
Cheeseman A	Connor N		Dawson D		Durnerin P		Finch MJ	
Cheeseman E	Cook C		Dawson DG		Dutton M		Fincham M	
Chen IY	Cook D		Dawson J		Dyer M		Fisher J	
Chernin J	Cook M		Dawton B		Dykes B		Fisher K	
Chesson SA	Cook R		De Silva D		Dykes W		Fisher SL	SF
Child D	Cook R & C		Dean D		Eagles R		Fitz L	
Childs J	Cooke J		Dean K		Earp M		Fitzgerald B	
Chown PK	Coom A		Dear G		Edward S		Flack I	
Church C	Cooper A		Dee C		Edwards D		Flanagan T	

Flapper C	Garwood MR	Green B	Harrison JS	Hillion E
Fleck J	Gaskell I	Green G	Harrison L	Hillson R
Flesher R RFr	Gatley SJ	Green R	Harrison P	Hilton E
Fletcher D	Geary R	Green S	Harrison R	Hinton C
Flinn G	Gentry G	Greenwood D	Harrison S	Hinton G
Flower L	Gibbs A AGI	Greenwood J	Hart M	Hoare J
Floyd M	Gibbs B	Greenwood P	Hart P PHT	Hobson A
Floyd P	Gibson A	Gregory M	Hart R	Hodge C
Fogg S SFg	Gibson C	Griffin MA	Hart T	Hodge TN
Folkerd G	Gibson N	Griffiths C	Hartmann B	Hodges D
Foot J JFt	Gibson S	Grimwade S	Hartnett K	Hodgson J
Foote S	Giddens J	Gross RD	Hartshorn M	Hodgson PT
Ford A	Giddens S	Grover R	Harvey S	Hoggan C
Ford AE	Giddings D	Gunkel P	Hasell D	Holden A
Ford E & N	Gilbert AT	Guthrie G	Haslem S	Hollands BJ
Ford N	Gilbert J JGi	Hadden N	Haslett N	Holm M
Forgham J	Gilby D	Haines B	Hasselgrove D	Holmes AL
Forsyth E	Gilham R	Haines W	Hatton WA	Holmethorpe SP
Fotheringham A	Gill E	Haldane P	Hawgood G	Blog
Fowler T	Gill GW	Hale D	Hawkins KJ	Holt D
Fox S	Gill M	Hale P	Hawkins P PH	Holtby C
France M	Gillard T	Hall AG	Hawksworth A	Honey MR
Francis GJ	Gillingham JKC	Hall J	Hawtree J	Hooper R
Francis R	Gilry A	Hallam M	Hay G GH	Hopkins L
Franklin T	Girvan D	Halley-Frame V	Haydon R	Hopkins P
Frearson S	Given Q		Haydon RM	Hopkins R
Free B	Glanville C	Hambrook P	Hayes D	Hopley N
Free J	Goddard AP	Hamilton S	Haynes A	Hornby K
Free W	Godden RJ	Hammond D	Hazell C	Horsley G
Freeland-Haynes L	Gompertz D	Hampson S	Healey SJ	Horsman R
Freeman M	Goodchild C	Hancock R	Heard CDR CDRH	Horton R
French P	Gooding J	Hannam J	Hennessey D	Horwood R
Friends of Stocker's Lake	Goodman D	Harbison Y	Henson G GHn	Housted D
Friends of West Ham Park	Goodman M	Harder G & R	Hepburn D	Houston T
Fuller D	Goodman P PG	Hardie AJ	Herbert C	Howard C
Fure A	Goodrick R	Harding A	Herbert R	Howard D
Furley C	Gordon J	Harding C	Herring E	Howard T
Gale G	Goss T	Harding G	Herts Bird Club	Howarth I
Gale J	Gough D	Hargreaves R RHa	website	Howdon D DHw
Gale S	Gower A	Harlow J	Hewett J	Howie G
Gannaway C	Gower GM	Harper M	Hider N	Howie S
Garcia E AG	Grady P	Harrington S	Higgins G	Howse B
Gardener A	Graham P	Harris A	Higgs N	Hoy L
Gardener D	Gram G	Harris B	Higgs P	Huckle S
Gardiner AH	Granger-Taylor N	Harris DM DMH	Hilder N	Hudson A
Gardiner G	Grant C	Harris G	Hiley M	Hudson J
Gardiner J	Grant I	Harris N	Hilfield Reservoir	Huggins S
Gardner A	Gravatt JC	Harris NG	Bird Report	Hughes J JHu
Gardner NJ	Gray A	Harris T	Hill D	Hughes M
Gardner NJ	Gray J	Harrison A	Hill M	Hull C
Garvey A	Gray L	Harrison B	Hill R	Hulls CAR
	Graystone P	Harrison H	Hill T	Hulls T

Hunt M		Jones D		Lambert P	Plt	Lowe J		McDougall RM
Hunt N		Jones G		Lamsdell C	CL	Lowen JC	JCL	McGeeney S
Hunter D		Jones I	IJ	Lamsdell D	DLa	Lowman DP		McGilvray KL
Hurst F		Jones J	JJ	Langsdon C		Luscombe A		McGilvray S
Husband R		Jones JR		Lapworth G		Lyburn A		McGough D DMcG
Hutchins PE		Jones K		Lapworth GM		Lycett I	IL	McKee MJ MMcK
Hyde D		Jones L		Last E		Lyle T		McKenzie DT DTM
Hylland P		Jones R		Last W	WL	Lynes H		McKenzie J
Hynes PD		Jordan D		Lathey PA		Lyness D		McKinnon F
Ilett M		Jordan M	MJ	Laurie P		Lyons D		McManus KJ
Imber E		Julian D		Lawrence J		Lyons S		McManus M
Ingold RJ		Jupp CR		Lawrence M		Mac M		McNickle JD
Ingrams W		Kalli G		Lawrence P		Mackenzie-		McSweeney J
Innes A		Kalms J		Lawson A	ARL	Davies C		McWalter D
Innes RE	REI	Kaye R	RK	Lay SH		Mackie J		Mead P
Inskip M	MIn	Keane D		Lea D		MacKinnon M		Meadows A
Inward D		Kearney T		Leach D	DL	Mackley C		Meaneer P
Iredale R		Kehl I		Lead M		Macpherson P		Meaton A
Jack J		Keith R		Leadbeater L		Maddison G	GM	Meier J
Jackman N		Kellett A		Leahy B		Magness I		Melarange R
Jackman P		Kempton NR hide		Leahy E		Magnus M		Messenbird GDJ
Jackson A		records		Leban K		Maher P		Messenger C
Jackson B		Kendrick J		Lee A		Mahieu N		Messenger M MMe
Jackson D		Kennelly T		Lee T		Makins P		Messenger P
Jackson G		Kennington C		Leech M		Malins D		Messenger V
Jackson I		Kerr K		Leeke S		Malloch G		Middleton D
Jackson P		Kerr L		Lees R		Mann D		Middleton J
Jacobs S		Kerr M & K		Legg D		Mansell M		Middleton R
James G		Ketcher M		Legge C		Mantle P		Middleton S
James GA	GAJ	Khan N		Lemon S		Maple Cross		Miller N
James J		Kiddell D		Leppard A		Ringling Group		Miller A
James T		Kilby R		Leppert P		Mapp B		Miller B
Jamie G		Kilby W		Lethbridge A		Marett A		Miller D
Jaques L		King M		Lethbridge J	JL	Marks W		Miller M
Jardine A		King S		Levy J		Maroivic FJ		Millington D
Jardine M		Kings MP		Lewis A		Marriner N		Mills B
Jarrett S		Kitchen C		Lewis AE		Marriott JM		Mills R
Jarvis KM	KMJ	Kitchen S		Lewis AP		Marsh B		Mills S
Javes S		Kitchiner S		Lewis E		Marshall O		Milton K
Jayne T		Kite P	PK	Lewis G		Marshall P		Mitchell D DMI
Jeffries D		Klemens F		Lewis M	ML	Marshall W		Mitchell DS
Jenkinson D		Knight A		Lewis P		Martens DP		Mitchell M
Jenner B		Knight D		Lin Y-H		Mason S		MKA Ecology
Jenner D		Knight G		Lindo D	DJL	Massey A		Monckton A
Jennings S		Knight J		Ling D		May B		Montier DJ
Johnson D		Knott N		Ling M		May N		Moon AV AVM
Johnson F		Knott S		Linnell A		Maynard J		Moore C
Johnson M		Kukielka Z		Lockton D		McBeath G		Moore H
Johnson S		La Pietra A		London Bird Club		McCafferty A		Moore KE
Johnson W		Lacey H	Hly	wiki		McCallum L		Moorhead R
Jones B		Laird A		Long B		McCarthy M		Moorhouse C
Jones C		Lamb A		Lord R		McDermott P		Moran NJ

Morden R	Nugent F	Pearson R	Prowse A	Righelato R
Morgan I	Nugent M	Peel A	Purdey KL	Rimes DNT
Morris A	Nuttall R	Peel C	Pursall K	Rimmell M
Morris D	NW London RSPB	Peeling J	Puxley MJ	Ritchin R
Morris DJ	Group	Peggs G	Pyrax RJ	Rix G
Morris J	DJM	Peggs S	Quail J	Roberts A
Morrison D	NW Surrey RSPB	Pemberton A	Quig A	Roberts B
Morrison G	Oakes E	Penn S	Quinn A	Robertson BD
Morrison J	Oakland M	Perfect S	Radbourn M	Robinson D
Morton R	O'Connor P	Petch L	Radford M	Robinson M
Morton S	Oddie WE	Petchey M	Rae A	Robinson MF
Morton T	Ogilwy A	Petley R	Rae R	MFR
Moss A	O'Keefe S	Pevy S	Ramish A	Robinson P
Moss J	Oliver PJ	Phelps M	Rampton N	Robinson R
Moss P	Olsen KM	Phillips B	NR	Robinson S
Moule J	KMO	Phillips I	Ramsay C	SRo
Moulton T	Orchard MJ	Phillips P	Ramsey K	Robinson T
Mount S	Ormondroyd S	Pia D	Ramsey S	Root SM
Murdoch R	Orwell T	Pickering P	Rand C	Rose C
Murphy D	Osborn S	Pickford A	Randall A	Rose I
Murphy N	Osborn T	Picton J	Randon N	Rose J
Murray J	Otto E	Pike L	Rank M	Rowcliffe J
Murray J Snr	Overy L	Pitcher L	Rare Bird Alert	Rowe B
Murray K	Oxendale G	Place S	Rawcliffe G	Rowe C
Murray S	Page R	Platt A	Rawlins T	Rowland- Chandler J
Murtagh C	Page-Jones R	Pledge D	TR	Roxbrough-Smith S
Musgrave C	Paice MR	Podmore A	Rayment K	Roy JC
Nash C	Paine ID	Polain G	Read D	Royston P
Nasir J	Painter D	Pond D	Read S	RSPB
Ndunge T	Palmer J	Pond M	BR	RSPB Croydon
Neal D	Palmer M	Pond N	Reed B	Ruggins M
Neal S	Papps S	Poole C	Reed M	Ruislip & District NHS
Ness R	Parish J	Poole J	Reeder A	Runnymede
Netherwood MJ	Parish NM	Porritt D	Reedman R	Ringing Group
Netley HR	Parker L	Posen S	Reeve B	Ruscoe M
Neville L	Parker M	Posen SG	Reeves S	Rush M
Newbigging G	Parr M	Potts R	Regent's Park Birds blog	Rusell G
Newbound PJ	Parrilla M	Powell H	Reid A	GRu
Newman H	Partner U	Powell P	Reid J	Russell L
Newman JL	Partridge J	Powell R	Reynolds A	Rutherford H
Newman K	Pashby C	Power R	Reynolds JL	Rutt PJ
Newmark P	Passingham J	Powlesland M	Reynolds K	Rutt S
Newson D	Patel S	Poynter S	Reynolds S	Rutter N
Newson J	Paterson S	Prater F	Rhodes F	Rycroft A
Nicholson D	Patient S	Prater G	Rhodes P	Ryder G
Nicholson H	Patmore S	Preston N	Richards GJ	Rye Meads Partnership RMP
Nobbs B	Payne D	Preston P	Richardson J	Ryland C
Noble K	Peak D	Priestnall J	Richardson M	Salmon AC
Norris R	Pearce E	Priestnall S	Riches G	Sammons S
North P	Pearce K	Prior B	Ridge J	Sanders D
Norton J	Pearce S	Prior H	Ridgeway B	Sandford-Smith B
Nowers A	SPe	Proddow SK	Riggs RJ	Saunders A
	Pearson A			
	Pearson M			

Saunders P	Sluman N	Storan D	Thompson J	Tyzack D
Savery R	Smith A & T	Storch A	Thompson K	Unite R
Saward K	Smith B	Strangeman PJ	Thompson M	Unwin P
Sawtell G	Smith C	Street P PSt	Thorn A	Upstone M
Scannella V	Smith D DSm	Stride S	Thornhill R	Utton BM
Scott C	Smith G	Stroud A	Thorpe S	Vale M
SE Herts RSPB	Smith H	Stubbs D	Thrush P	Valente L
Seargent R	Smith J	Summerfield T	Tillbrook L	Valentine E
Searle M	Smith KW	SunTERS A	Tillbrooke J JT	Vallas JC
Sek M	Smith L	Surbiton &	Tilley S	Vallory G
Self ASM ASMS	Smith M	District BWS	Timms D	Valsamidis A
Selfe J	Smith MJ	Surrey Bird Club	Timms N	Van Der Veen N
Sell P	Smith N NS	SBC	Tingley M	Vaughan B BV
Sellar J	Smith P	Sutton C	Todd B	Vaughan H HV
Sellwood J	Smith R	Sutton G	Todd R RT	Vaughan L
Senior N	Smith S	Sutton K	Tollemeche W	Vaughan P
Seward L	Smith T	Sutton P	Tomczynski A	Vaughan R RV
Shand S	Smout C	Swan J	Tomkins J	Veale K
Sharman K	Snell E	Sweeney JN	Tomkins T	Velasco M
Sharp ALH	Snellgrove R	Sweetland A	Tompkins T	Venitt S
Sharp C	Soane J	Sweetland J	Topham S	Vereycken J
Shaw E	Solomon R	Symons F	Tower 42 Bird	Verlander N
Shaw G	Sorkin S SSk	Szary S	Study Group	Verrall AG AGV
Shaw I	Sorrell D	Tallantire P	Townsend A	Waite M
Shaw P	Spall T TS	Tanner N NT	Townsend R	Wakerling V
Sheard M	Speller T	Taplin C	Tragett B	Waldron P
Shearman A	Spence L	Taplin R	Travers K	Walker MA
Shenton L	Spencer PA	Tarran R & D	Tregenza P	Walker P
Shepard S	Spinks GJ	Taylor G	Trenerry S	Walker V
Shepherd M MSd	Spooner SC SJS	Taylor I	Travis B	Wallace P
Sheppard Sandra	Stachnicki IA	Taylor K	Trevis L	Wallace R
Sheppard Stephen	Stadlen N	Taylor M	Trew P	Waller M
Sherlock B	Stallard B	Taylor N	Trim C CT	Wallis G
Sherlock CA	Stanbridge D	Taylor P	Trueman M	Walsh N
Sherriff R RS	Stanger A	Taylor R	Trueman R	Walters M
Sherwen J	Stanley D	Taylor S	Tuck D	Wanstead Bird
Sherwood C	Stanley M	Telford L	Tuffnell K	Report
Shilland EM	Stannard E	Telford P	Turner C	Wanstead Birders
Shippey S Ssy	Stansfield RH	Terry J	Turner D	Ward IP
Simmons M	Starup S	Terry JH	Turner J	Ward J JWd
Simms D	Stebbins S	Terry K	Turner P	Ward P
Simms G	Steele AJ AJS	Thackstone M	Turner R	Wardell A
Simms O	Stevens M	Thain M	Turney J	Warden B
Simpson D	Stevens PJ	Theobald R	Tusa F	Warden M
Simpson F	Stevens T	Thomas A Ath	Tusa S	Warden R RWa
Simpson H	Stewart G	Thomas B	Tutt D	Wardill A
Simpson J JSi	Stewart I IS	Thomas J	Tweed A AT	Warren D
Sinden N	Still R	Thomas M	Twine J	Warrington S
Skelton M	Stockwell A	Thomas N	Twyford N NTw	Wasse J JW
Skinner A	Stockwell B	Thomas P	Tyers A	Waters D
Skotnicki A	Stone T	Thomas S ST	Tyler D	Waters S
Slack C	Stones A	Thomason E	Tyler P	Watkins K

Watkinson C	West N	Widdowson D	Wilson G	Woolley R	RWy
Watson IR	West S	Widgery K	Wilson M	Woolmore K	
Watson J	Westley G	Wilcox M	Wilson S	Woolston J	
Watson M	Weston H	Wilczur JPP	Wilson T	Wormald L	
Watts B	Westwick R	Wileman A	Winn AC	Wright BE	
Watts RC	Wheatcroft D	Wileman T	Winstanley A	Wright G	
Watts RJ	Wheeler M	Wilkinson A	Winters C	WWT	
Webb A	Whelan G	Wilkinson C	Witt J	Wyatt M	
Webb R	Whele J	Wilkinson M	Wood A	Wyatt R	
Webb S	Whiskin B	Willett I	Wood NA	Wyn-Jones H	HWJ
Webber R	White C	Willett JD	Wood T	Wyn-Jones S	
Webster PJ	White F	Williams B	Woodham C	Wyver J	
Weekend O	White G	Williams H	Woodhouse R	York CH	
Wei E	White M	Williams I	Wooding B	Youles E	
Weir J	White P	Williams J	Woodlands Farm	Young A	
Welland S	White PD	Williams P	Trust	Young G	
Weller R	White R	Williams S	Woodley V	Young R	
Welsh Harp	Whitehead H	Williamson V	Woodward I	Younger S	
Conservation	Whitelegg D	Wills C	Woodward R	Zhang K	
Group	Whiteman P	Wills D	Woodrudge D		
Wentworth-May M	Whitfield J	Wilson AH	Woolfenden S		
West D	Whittle M	Wilson B	Woollard S		



Birder. (Dawn Painter)

BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA, 2013

WITH SOME ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS

A Report on Bird-life within Twenty Miles of St Paul's Cathedral

The nomenclature of species in the systematic list of this report is based on the *Birds of Britain: the Complete Checklist*, Fourth Edition (Mitchell and Vinicombe, 2012). The sequence of species still follows *Birds of Britain: the Complete Checklist*, Third Edition (Mitchell and Vinicombe, 2010). A Checklist of Birds of the London Area appears on pages 248 to 256.

The six counties within the London Area are denoted in the report as follows: Essex or EX, Herts or HR = Hertfordshire, Middx or MX = Middlesex, Bucks or BU = Buckinghamshire, Kent or KT, Surrey or SY, and In Lond or IL = Inner London (the central rectangular area shown on the map on page 9). Other abbreviations are:

BBS	= Breeding Birds Survey	o/h	= overhead
CP	= Country Park	OS	= Open Space
FB	= Filter Beds	PF	= Playing Field(s)
fem	= female	PS	= Power Station
GC	= Golf Course	QE II	= Queen Elizabeth II
Gdn(s)	= Garden(s)	Q. Mary	= Queen Mary
GP	= Gravel Pit(s)	Q. Mother	= Queen Mother
imm, juv	= immature, juvenile	R	= River
KGV	= King George V	Res	= Reservoir(s)
KGVI	= King George VI	RG*	= Recreation Ground
LBR	= London Bird Report	SF/W	= Sewage Farm/Works
LNR	= Local Nature Reserve	SP	= Sand Pit(s)
NR	= Nature Reserve	WR	= Wildfowl Reserve
N, S, E, W	= North, South, East and West		

*please note the new allocation of RG to Recreation Ground (previously Ringing Group)

Observer abbreviations are shown only against records for species which are rare in the London Area. A list of all the observers who have contributed records for 2013 appears on pages 19 to 25. The abbreviation 'mo' used for some records, indicates 'many observers'. All running totals of rare or unusual birds that are provided in the systematic list refer to occurrences since 1900.

The term 'Lower Thames' is used for the section of R Thames from the Thames Barrier to the eastern edge of our recording area. The term 'West London reservoirs' is used for the following reservoirs: Island Barn, KGVI, QE II, Q. Mary, Q. Mother, Staines, Walton and Wraysbury.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Status: Common breeding resident.

Even allowing for some possible duplication, the breeding situation has improved, with 118 records (including nest building), compared to around 100 on average in the previous four years. Breeding records came from all sectors, including seven Inner London sites. Flocks of 50 or more were recorded at 13 sites (eight last year and 13 in 2011). But there were only three sites with counts over 100 (ten sites in 2010 and eight in 2009) which suggests numbers may be down. The latest WeBS report shows no real change in recent years (Waterbirds in the UK 2012/13). Selected high counts are given below.

Mute Swan breeding records (incl. nest building)

Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
20	22	28	2	6	31	9	118

Essex: Harrow Lodge Park, 178 on Mar 30th; the year's highest count - this site also had the highest in 2011 and 2012. Walthamstow Res, 119 on Aug 17th.

Herts: Stocker's & Bury Lakes, 53 on Dec 15th.

Middx: Bushy Park, 77 on Jul 14th. Ruislip Lido, 71 on May 5th.

Surrey: Truss's Island, 145 on Jan 1st, 131 on Feb 2nd and 104 on Apr 7th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 88 on Jan 9th.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Status: scarce migrant, usually in autumn, and winter visitor.

There were three records this year, which is about average, but two of these involved a large flock, so the probable total of 32 birds almost equals the number from the two previous years together. The flock was in January and the other record in November, both typical winter dates. It was the fourth consecutive year that Rainham Marshes has had a record.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, two on Nov 21st (AT *et al*). Walthamstow Res, c30 flew N on Jan 19th (LB, PW).

Herts: Bowyers Water, 21 on Jan 19th were probably part of the flock seen earlier at Walthamstow Res (AW).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Status: rare winter visitor.

Once again, just one record this year but this involved seven birds seen at three sites at the West London reservoirs; this flock had been seen flying over Dinton Pastures CP in Berkshire at 11:27. This is the fifth consecutive year this less than annual bird has been reported in the London Area (see table below).

Whooper Swan records 2003-2012: 15 records, 30-35 birds

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of records	1	0	5	2	0	0	1	4	1	1
No. of birds	1	0	16	2	0	0	1	8*	1	1

*perhaps 13

Middx: KGV Res, seven (four adults and three juvs) over on Nov 10th at 12:42 were also seen over Staines Moor before landing on Staines Res (AVM, LD, REI *et al*).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Status: scarce winter visitor.

Just one accepted record this year of a juvenile that lingered for a few days, unlike the recent double figure counts. This is the fifth consecutive year for records, after five blank years.

Herts: Amwell NR, juv on Oct 11th, 12th & 15th (BR *et al*).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

In recent years this species has most often been recorded in the early winter period, but this time only two records came early in the year, with all of the rest in December. All but two of this year's sightings came from Essex, with the vast majority of those being from Rainham Marshes.

The first record was of three birds flying west over Wormwood Scrubs early on January 20th, with the second a single bird at KGV Res on March 20th. Most of the December records involved two adult birds seen at Rainham Marshes on numerous dates throughout the month from the 5th to the 31st. There were records from three sites on the 12th; two at Rainham Marshes, two at nearby Belhus Woods CP which were perhaps the same two birds and (the only record during the month from outside Essex) two more flying west past the London Wetland Centre in the afternoon. The biggest flock was of 11 birds flying west past Rainham Marshes on the 24th, a festive sight indeed for the lucky observer!

The total number of birds was 19, a relatively low number, although numbers vary a great deal from year to year as the table below shows.

White-fronted Goose records 2003-2012: 106 records, 1312 birds

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of records	10	7	1	16	8	4	3	20	25	12
No. of birds	95	49	100	221	85	48	7	587	65	55

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Status: common breeding resident, controlled.

It is difficult to gauge breeding numbers for this common but under-recorded species, with recent annual totals fluctuating between 25 to 83 pairs/broods. This year's figure of 61 is well up on last year (38), but down on 2010 and 2011 (69 and 82). Sites where we have records for both 2012 and 2013 suggest there has been an increase this year. As usual Walthamstow Res and Sevenoaks WR were the most productive breeding sites. At Walton Res, a pair appeared with one gosling, which would have been the first breeding record for the site; however, it grew up to be a Canada Goose which they must have adopted!

This year's highest count of 560 came in August at Horton GP; this is the highest count in the London Area since the 600 at Sevenoaks WR in 1992. There were counts of 100 or more at 15 sites. All breeding records are given below (no. of pairs/broods if known in brackets) along with some of the highest counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (bred, 30 juvs in June). Fairlop Waters (bred, 16 juvs in June). Rainham Marshes (1); 300 on Jan 7th. Walthamstow Res (25). Warren Gorge (2).

Herts: Amwell NR (1). Hampermill Lake (1). Lynsters Farm (4); 106 on Aug 2nd. Radlett Aero GP (1). Stocker's Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1).

Middx: Alexandra Park (1). Blackwall Basin (1). Canons Park (1). KGVI Res, 100 on Sep 28th. Town Park, Enfield (1).

Bucks: Horton GP (bred, 18 juvs in June); 560 on Aug 27th.

Kent: Darenth Lakes (1). Littlebrook Lake (1). Sevenoaks WR (bred, 117 juvs in June); 350 on Sep 29th.

Surrey: Dulwich Park (1). Holmethorpe SP (3). London Wetland Centre (3). R Thames (Putney to Battersea Bridges) (1). Trevereux, 152 on Oct 27th.

In Lond: Battersea (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1); 228 on Jan 9th and 230 on Sep 11th. Regent's Park (1). St James's Park (3).

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Status: occasional migrant and winter visitor.

A total of 194 birds were seen this year, with records from 23 sites, and about 60% of records were in the first winter period. The first was a bird which stayed over from 2012 at QE II Res until January 4th, moving to Q. Mary Res on the 5th, where it stayed to the next day. On January 12th, three were at Rainham Marshes and one flew past Crayford/Dartford Marshes. On the 14th, four were at Q. Mother Res, and seven were reported from both Rainham Marshes and Crayford/Dartford Marshes; these two sites both also saw two on the 21st and one on the 24th. There was only one record in February, of two birds at Rainham Marshes on the 2nd.

It was over a month before the next records, all on March 9th, when four flew north over Walthamstow Res, two flew west over Blackheath, and the biggest flock of the year - 65 birds - flew east down the Thames and were seen from Barking Bay, Crossness and Greenhithe. The next day one flew south-west over Crayford Marshes, and on the 11th a flock of 12 went north over Betchworth in Surrey. One was reported from Amwell NR on 15th and 16th, and eight at Harold Wood SW on the 20th, with one at Rainham Marshes on the 22nd. There were four reports in April: one at Rainham Marshes on the 7th and again on the 14th, 25 at Walthamstow Res on the 10th and one at the London Wetland Centre, also on the 10th.

The first birds of the autumn were six (four adults and two juvs) seen at Staines Res and KGVI Res on October 2nd. One of the juvs relocated to Island Barn Res later in the day, with the other five moving to QE II Res. On October 10th two were again at Staines Res, and on the 12th one was at Crossness. Singles were at Staines Res on 26th and KGV Res on 29th. On November 6th, 23 were at West Thurrock Marshes, and on the 10th three were at QE II Res. A juvenile was at Roding Valley Meadows NR from November 22nd to 25th, and four were at Sevenoaks WR on the 30th. On December 5th five were at the London Wetland Centre, on the 8th one was at Wraysbury Res, and on the 18th there was one at QE II Res. The final record of the year was of two birds in the early evening of December 23rd flying from the R Thames on to the main lake at the London Wetland Centre.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Status: very common, introduced breeding resident, controlled.

Coverage of this under-recorded species varies greatly; there were only five records in total from Bucks, for example, whereas nearly half of all records came from Herts. There were 222 breeding records received (from 95 sites), well up on last year's 138 and close to the 250 from 2010. This increase was reflected in the figures from the main breeding site of Walthamstow Res, where 56 broods were recorded, compared to 36 in 2012. This species' other main breeding stronghold, Beddington Farmlands, had 21 breeding records. The highest count this year was again at Walthamstow Res, but this year's maximum of 633 was exactly 100 fewer than last year's high. Breeding records of three or more pairs are given below (no. of pairs/broods in brackets) and a selection of the highest counts. As usual most of the largest counts were of mid-summer moulting groups.

Essex: Breeding records from six sites. Rainham Marshes (11). Walthamstow Res (56); 633 on Jul 7th.

Herts: Breeding records from 25 sites. Aldenham CP (3). Hampermill Lake (3). Hilfield Park Res, 354 on Sep 12th. Rickmansworth Aquadrome (3). Tyttenhanger GP (3).

Middx: Breeding records from 21 sites. Brent Res (3). Home Park, 139 on Sep 30th. Town Park, Enfield (3).

Kent: Breeding records from 16 sites. Lamorbey Park (3). Swanley Park (3); 163 on Aug 30th.

Surrey: Breeding records from 24 sites. Beddington Farmlands (21). Beddington Park (3). London Wetland Centre (6). Richmond Park (5). R Thames (Kew to Richmond), 269 on Jul 22nd.

In Lond: Breeding records from two sites. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 175 on Jan 25th and 173 on Jul 29th. Regent's Park (3); 59 on Mar 12th.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Status: increasing, introduced breeding resident.

The number of breeding records has increased steadily over the past few years, with this year's total of 55 broods from 34 sites being the highest ever recorded, well up on the 35 broods at 25 sites in 2012. Additionally, juvs were seen at a further 13 sites where breeding was not proved. Overall, records came from just under 200 different sites; again, the highest number ever, and a huge increase on last year's figure of 129 sites.

This year's highest count of 85 at Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens beat last year's (80 birds at the same site), and is most likely the highest count ever for this species in the London Area. All breeding records are given below (no. of broods/pairs in brackets) along with selected high counts in each sector.

Essex: Dagenham Chase (1); 36 on Aug 6th. Hollow Pond (1). Netherhall GP (1). Valentines Park (1). Walthamstow Res (5).

Herts: Lynsters Farm (1); 15 on Jan 4th. Rickmansworth (1).

Middx: Bushy Park (1). Chiswick House (1). Clissold Park (1). Grovelands Park (1). Hampstead Heath (1). Home Park (1). R Thames (Walton Bridge to River Wey), 41 on Jul 7th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 26 on Jul 26th.

Kent: Chipstead Lake (1). Danson Park (2). Darenth Lakes (1). Greenwich Park (1). Lamorbey Park (1). Sevenoaks WR (3); 24 on Dec 11th. Sundridge (1).

Surrey: Beddington Park (1). Clapham Common (1). Godstone (1). Ham House (1). Kingston-upon-Thames (1). London Wetland Centre, 200 on Feb 16th. Putney (1). QE II Res (2). Richmond Park (5). Truss's Island (2). West End Common (1).

In Lond: Buckingham Palace Gdns, 23 on Sep 20th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (4); 85 on Jan 25th. Regent's Park (3). St James's Park (4); 22 on Feb 11th (site record). Victoria Park (1).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Status: passage migrant, decreasing breeding resident on Lower Thames, regular visitor to major waters where it breeds in small numbers.

A total of 13 broods this year is well up on last year (seven) and similar to 2011 and 2010 (15 and 13 respectively), and there were another seven pairs reported during the breeding season (19 pairs in 2012). This year's high count of 140, at Crossness in March, matches that of last year, which was at Rainham Marshes, also in March. All breeding records are shown below (no. of pairs/broods in brackets) plus number of ducklings if known, and some high counts in each sector.

Essex: Mar Dyke Valley, pair present. Rainham Marshes (2); 120 on Jul 8th. Walthamstow Res (1), four young.

Herts: Rye Meads, 12 on Apr 6th.

Middx: Brent Res, pair present. Bushy Park, pair present. East India Dock Basin, 30 on Feb 11th. Hampton FB (1), six young. Kempton Park Water Works (1), nine young. KGVI Res (1), ten young. Q. Mary Res (2), 20 young. Stain Hill Res (1), seven young. Staines Moor, pair prospecting nest holes.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 14 on Jun 30th.

Kent: Crossness (1), ten young; 140 on Mar 20th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (2), ten young. London Wetland Centre, pair present. Thorpe Hay Meadow, pair present. Walton Res, 20 on May 18th.

In Lond: Limehouse, two on Apr 25th. Regent's Park (1), young did not survive; five on Mar 17th.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Status: introduced breeding resident, established and locally common.

The number of broods this year showed an increase to 25 from 19 last year, although this may be due to increased reporting compared to last year. Richmond Park showed evidence of decline, the peak count of 22 being well under half that of last year's peak of 56. All breeding records (no. of broods in brackets) and significant counts are given below.

Essex: Connaught Water, peak of 73 on Jan 15th. Noak Hill (1).

Herts: Aberford Park (1). Aldenham CP, 25 on Dec 2nd. Beech Farm GP (1). Coopers Green GP (1). Essendon GC (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (1).

Middx: Bushy Park (1). Darlands Lake, 26 on Jan 22nd. Ferny Hill Farm, 36 on Dec 1st. Forty Hall (1). Grovelands Park (1); 30 on Jan 2nd. Hampton FB (1). Q. Mary Res (1). Town Park, Enfield (1). Trent Park (4); 35 on Oct 4th. Whitewebbs Wood, 56 on Jan 26th.

Bucks: Black Park, 31 on Jan 5th, 24 on Nov 18th and 20 on Dec 8th.

Kent: Cornmill Gardens (1). Kelsey Park, 24 on Jan 5th.

Surrey: Millers Pond, two mating pairs on Apr 6th. Putney Heath/Wimbledon Common (1). Richmond Park (1); 22 on Dec 23rd.

In Lond: Regent's Park, peaks of 54 on Feb 25th and 56 on Dec 2nd.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Status: common winter visitor with occasional summer records.

Once again, Rainham Marshes had the highest count. The March figure of 850 for this site showed a return towards the 2011 figure of 1000, after the drop to 400 last year. There was evidence of one bird summering at Amwell NR, probably due to a damaged wing: similarly a sighting on July 3rd at Kempton NR was of an injured bird. Monthly peaks from sites recording one or more totals of 100 or greater are given in the table below. Other significant counts are given below the table.

Eurasian Wigeon	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	600	711	850	250	3	1	-	4	28	-	600	1000
HR Aldenham CP	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	46	66	30	105
Amwell NR	156	28	220	54	2	1	1	2	9	29	7	27
Bowyer's Water	6	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	137	300
Hilfield Park Res	164	107	108	12	-	-	2	4	13	51	113	119
Lynsters Lake	92	6	100	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	2	16
Radlett Aero GP	130	152	132	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	108	4
MX Kempton Park RC	-	92	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	29	90	192
Q. Mary Res	105	92	119	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
Staines Res	176	266	200	-	-	1	-	7	50	77	101	263
Wraysbury Res	-	-	238	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KT Dartford Marshes	240	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
SY Wetland Centre	86	71	68	53	-	-	-	-	80	124	104	60
Walton Res	98	225	183	151	-	1	-	2	76	151	64	200

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, 63 on Feb 4th, 70 on Dec 26th. KGV Res, 80 on Jan 23rd, 70 on Apr 1st.

Herts: Bury Lake, 72 on Dec 15th. Helicon/Pynesfield Lakes, 92 on Jan 20th. Stocker's Farm, 75 on Mar 2nd. Stocker's Lake, 60 on Dec 15th.

Bucks: Horton Brook Quarry, 120 on Feb 16th. Horton GP, 64 on Jan 25th.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, 69 on Jan 8th. Richmond Park, 65 on Nov 2nd. Thorpe Water Park, 27 on Oct 27th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Jan 30th, two on Dec 11th. Regent's Park, 53 on Jan 21st down to one on 28th, one on Nov 15th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Status: local breeding resident and common winter visitor.

The 45 broods observed this year were well up on last year's 25 and similar to the 42 in 2011. Cassiobury Park had its first record this year, as did Greenwich Park, whilst Swanley Park saw its first record for ten years. Wanstead Park had a record count, 363 on December 15th. Beddington Farmlands also had a record count, 119 on December 27th. Counts for



Wigeon. (Andrew Moon)

the major sites are shown in the table, with other peaks and all breeding records (no. of broods in brackets), and Inner London records given below.

Gadwall		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX	Mar Dyke Valley	-	25	20	8	3	2	-	-	-	13	11	49
	Rainham Marshes	24	17	30	8	26	29	1	-	20	-	3	27
	Walthamstow Res	1	100	8	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	29	4
	Wanstead Park	150	258	60	50	-	-	1	1	19	113	173	363
HR	Aldenham CP	6	8	7	1	-	1	-	53	56	53	104	142
	Amwell NR	257	109	30	30	20	21	16	45	35	79	91	92
	Bowyer's Water	38	9	5	6	-	-	-	5	4	18	37	114
	Hilfield Park Res	72	27	30	23	18	42	91	45	24	15	46	53
	Maple Lodge NR	44	13	11	16	9	49	84	35	6	2	-	-
	Rye Meads	136	203	177	295	289	249	25	120	316	254	110	61
MX	Brent Res	27	16	7	9	32	93	40	76	98	168	108	16
	Staines Res	78	71	91	41	-	10	-	-	48	36	61	-
BU	Horton GP	202	112	16	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74
	Wraysbury GP	153	79	40	16	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	196
KT	Crossness	170	360	250	120	25	75	20	1	9	18	50	130
SY	Beddington Farmlands	37	80	30	10	7	12	2	6	15	30	115	119
	Wetland Centre	123	62	60	20	25	22	61	82	121	113	50	25
	Richmond Park	154	122	14	2	4	1	-	3	3	26	26	129
	Thorpe Water Park	165	113	52	-	5	-	-	-	8	64	66	145

Essex: Rainham Marshes (2). Roding Valley Meadows NR, 53 on Oct 28th.

Herts: Hilfield Park Res (3). Maple Lodge NR (2). Rye Meads (21). Stanstead Innings, 101 on Jan 12th. Tyttenhanger GP (1).

Middx: Brent Res (3). KGVI Res (1). Ruislip Lido, 107 on Sep 29th.

Kent: Crossness (1). Dartford Marshes (1). Swanscombe Marshes, 62 on Jan 1st.
Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, 70 on Jan 22nd. London Wetland Centre (6). Walton Res (3).
In Lond: Battersea Bridge, 21 on Jan 19th. Battersea Park, 24 on Jun 14th. Buckingham Palace Gdns, nine on Dec 16th. Chelsea Wharf, 33 on Dec 7th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, nine on Jan 15th. Regent's Park, 31 on Jan 28th. St James's Park (1); 12 on Dec 13th. Victoria Park, five on Dec 16th.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Status: common winter visitor and rare breeder.

The overall pattern of figures is similar to 2012. Rainham Marshes again had the highest count although somewhat lower than last year. The figures for Inner London were surprisingly high, with 33 sighted at Chelsea Wharf. Two males summered at Rainham Marshes, but there were no evidence of breeding this year. Counts for the major sites are recorded in the table below, with significant records from other sites below the table.

Eurasian Teal		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX	Bow Creek	135	229	310	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	-
	Gallions Reach	210	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	180	-	44	14
	Mar Dyke Valley	-	95	89	81	2	-	-	2	45	60	245	
	Rainham Marshes	150	130	450	50	4	10	-	43	450	1000	900	120
HR	Rye Meads	222	157	167	60	4	4	7	67	107	156	157	117
MX	Brent Res	144	157	89	56	9	7	1	35	185	253	149	175
	East India Dock Basin	203	5	-	-	1	-	3	29	50	113	115	330
	KGVI Res	38	92	21	14	-	-	-	17	11	99	34	81
KT	Crossness	500	627	860	550	9	1	42	310	600	478	500	203
	Dartford Marshes	150	160	89	130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
	Sevenoaks WR	85	95	56	25	7	-	1	12	30	69	100	58
SY	Beddington Farmlands	250	175	250	120	4	3	2	110	200	300	300	350
	Wetland Centre	185	176	196	64	31	17	47	86	182	158	173	153

Essex: Abbey Mills, 150 on Jan 20th. Dagenham Riverside, 173 on Sep 21st. Hollow Pond, 125 on Sep 27th. Ingrebourne Valley, 123 on Dec 28th. Walthamstow Res, 114 on Jan 17th.

Middx: Stanwell Moor, 60 on Nov 27th.

Surrey: R Thames: Kew to Richmond, 207 on Mar 11th. R Thames: Putney Bridge to Barnes Bridge, 415 on Feb 8th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, 13 on Oct 29th. Chelsea Wharf, 33 on Dec 7th. Fulham, 15 on R Thames on Dec 28th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, four on Mar 26th and three on Sep 11th. Regent's Park, six on Mar 14th.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

Status: rare vagrant.

This was the first record since 2005 and the eleventh record for London. The male was mostly at Crossness but seen also at Rainham Marshes. The table below shows the arrival dates for the previous ten records.

Green-winged Teal arrival dates 1961-2012: 10 records, 10 birds

Month	Feb	Mar	Apr	Nov	Dec
No. of records	4	1	2	1	2

Essex: Rainham Marshes, male on Apr 27th (PSt *et al.*).

Kent: Crossness, male from Apr 12th-26th and on 28th (RHB *et al.*).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Status: very common and widespread breeding resident.

There were 269 broods this year, similar to the 2012 figure. The table below shows sites that have a maximum count of 200 or more. Breeding/territory records are summarised below the table.

Mallard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Abbey Mills	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belhus Woods CP	-	31	38	53	-	20	52	423	428	441	401	346
SY R Thames: Kew-Richmond	263	-	162	98	118	179	276	-	231	100	100	-
R Thames: Putney Bridge to Barnes Bridge	360	355	243	-	-	-	-	-	326	369	209	302
R Wandle: Carshalton to Mill Close	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	275

Essex: 20 broods from 11 sites.

Herts: 63 broods from 19 sites.

Middx: 48 broods from 17 sites.

Kent: 16 broods from eight sites.

Surrey: 99/87 broods/territories from 30 sites.

In Lond: 23 broods from seven sites.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, very occasional summer visitor.

Wintering numbers this year were similar to last year, with most having left by mid-April. In May and June there were four sightings of singles, at Fairlop Waters, London Wetland Centre, Valentines Park and Walton Res. The first returning bird was a week earlier than 2012, on August 21st. The Inner London record of 2012 was not repeated this year. The table below gives counts from key sites and below that all the records from other sites.

Northern Pintail	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	15	30	44	23	-	-	-	-	10	14	17	15
HR Rye Meads	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	16	1	1	1	-
MX Staines Res	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
KT Crayford Marshes	22	16	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SY Beddington Farmlands	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2
Wetland Centre	3	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	6	4

- Essex:** Fairlop Waters, one on May 16th. Holyfield Lake, one on Jan 6th. KGV Res, one on Aug 21st. Valentines Park, one on May 26th.
- Herts:** Amwell NR, recorded from Jan 11th to Mar 11th with peak of seven; then on four dates from Sep 20th with peak of five. Bury Lake, two on Sep 22nd. Hilfield Park Res, two on Feb 8th, five on Mar 14th and two on Sep 2nd. Radlett Aero GP, one on Nov 18th. Stocker's Lake, one on Jan 16th and two on Sep 22nd.
- Middx:** Brent Res, recorded from Jan 15th-26th with peak of three, then singles on Mar 5th, Sep 1st and Oct 7th. KGV Res, three on Jan 1st. Ruislip Lido, one on Sep 18th. Tottenham Marshes, one from Oct 23rd-26th. Wraysbury Res, two on Apr 4th and on Oct 14th.
- Bucks:** Horton Brook Quarry, one on Mar 16th. Horton GP, singles on Jan 25th, Mar 29th, Apr 7th, Nov 17th & 29th, and Dec 1st, 15th & 28th. Wraysbury GP, pair on Mar 5th & 8th then one on Dec 14th.
- Kent:** Crossness, one on Jan 8th. Dartford Marshes, singles on Feb 9th and Mar 9th, two on Mar 14th & 20th. Staines Res, one on Jan 20th, two on Feb 12th & 13th.
- Surrey:** Island Barn Res, singles on Jan 22nd, Feb 2nd and Mar 10th, two on Mar 23rd. London Wetland Centre, one on Jun 17th. QE II Res, singles on Jan 4th, Mar 18th and Apr 6th. R Ember, one from Jan 21st-22nd and one on Mar 9th. R Thames: Putney Bridge to Barnes Bridge, three on Dec 15th. R Thames: Putney Bridge to Battersea Bridge, one on Feb 10th, two on Dec 22nd and one on 26th. Walton-on-Thames, one on Apr 28th. Walton Res, two on Mar 9th, singles on Mar 17th, Jun 23rd and Oct 18th, two on Oct 19th. Wandle Creek, one on Jan 19th, two on Feb 6th.

Another excellent American vagrant, this Green-winged Teal was picked up by the dedicated crew at Crossness. It also spent some time on the other side of the river at Rainham. (Dominic Mitchell - www.birdingetc.com)



Mallard. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Status: scarce passage migrant, rare in winter; occasionally breeds.

There was a record at Rainham Marshes on January 31st but the first migrant did not arrive until April 1st at Crossness followed by one at Ingrebourne Valley on 6th. There were then records from London Wetland Centre, Bushy Park, Horton GP, Kempton NR, Beddington Farmlands and Rye Meads up to May 8th. From May 16th a pair summered at Rainham Marshes and there were records from Stanwell Moor and Bushy Park in June, the last being on June 26th at Amwell NR. This meant there were records from 11 sites in the spring passage.



Returning birds appeared from July 28th and were recorded at 17 sites, with lengthy stays at Dagenham Chase, Rainham Marshes, Rye Meads, Brent Res, Sevenoaks WR, Beddington Farmlands and London Wetland Centre. The only October record was the last of the year, at London Wetland Centre until October 10th. There were more birds seen this year with records at 21 different sites, which was an increase from last year's total of 14 and closer to the 24 in 2011.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor, scarce breeder, with small numbers recorded in summer.

One pair bred at the London Wetland Centre, which was the first time that breeding has been proved at this site; three broods were observed. A pair also bred at Rye Meads and two pairs were thought to have probably bred at Maple Lodge NR. Monthly figures for the key sites are given in the table below. Significant records from other sites and Inner London are listed below the table.

Northern Shoveler	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	-	13	57	21	4	3	8	40	80	32	12	38
Walthamstow Res	1	-	19	37	-	1	-	1	20	92	-	12
HR Amwell NR	29	20	28	25	1	3	2	12	22	23	65	29
Rye Meads	81	44	35	39	4	5	2	76	100	129	106	42
MX Brent Res	14	6	13	5	2	11	-	59	141	190	69	25
Staines Res	68	50	180	84	-	4	4	11	339	32	38	-
SY Beddington Farmlands	75	40	67	30	4	2	1	38	50	100	50	60
Wetland Centre	128	88	106	76	4	4	9	61	130	192	85	103

Essex: Fairlop Waters, 62 on Mar 10th. KGV Res, 75 on Aug 26th. Walthamstow Res, 37 on Apr 2nd, 92 on Oct 28th.

Herts: Bury Lake, 57 on Feb 16th. Hilfield Park Res, 46 on Mar 7th. Maple Lodge NR, two pairs present to Jun 16th. Rye Meads (1), but no young seen. Stocker's Lake, 60 on Feb 23rd. Tyttenhanger GP, 54 on Mar 29th.

Middx: Kempton NR, 40 on Mar 1st. Stain Hill Res, 44 on Dec 8th.

Bucks: Horton GP, 86 on Dec 21st. Wraybury GP, 77 on Sep 30th.

Kent: Crossness, 47 on Apr 1st. Thamesmere West Lake, 53 on Feb 23rd.

Surrey: Gatton Lake, 55 on Oct 13th. Holmethorpe SP, 50 on Feb 7th. London Wetland Centre (3). Walton Res, 52 on Sep 6th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, peaks of 16 on Jan 13th and 34 on Dec 16th. Buckingham Palace Gdns, one on Aug 15th, two on Sep 12th, nine on Dec 16th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, peaks of 62 on Jan 19th and 17 on Sep 25th. Regent's Park, peaks of 68 on Jan 24th, 32 on Oct 18th and 34 on Dec 26th. Rotherhithe, six on Apr 7th. Southwark Park, five on Jan 20th. Victoria Park, peaks of ten on Jan 5th and three on Dec 16th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Status: introduced breeding resident, probably also rare autumn and winter visitor from the continent.

Another healthy spread of records for this species, which has been regarded as self-sustaining in the London Area since 2010, and seven broods were reported. As usual, the largest count came from Regent's Park, which had 74 in January and February (a peak of 68 in February last year). The largest counts outside Inner London were 21 at Bushy Park in September (peak of 28 last year) and the same number at Richmond Park in February (peak of 25 last year). The number of broods is given in brackets.

Essex: Fairlop Waters, singles on Mar 5th & 20th. Ingrebourne Valley, up to five between Apr 1st-13th. Wanstead Park, three on April 3rd and a single from Sep 17th-24th.

Herts: Amwell NR, four on Mar 17th with one until the 20th. Hertingfordbury, one on Mar 29th. Lynsters Lake, peaks of three in October and five in November. Rye Meads, two on Aug 24th and singles on 26th & 31st; one on Sep 1st. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, peaks of eight in February and November. Stocker's Lake (1); recorded all months except July to September, with peak of 15 in November.

Middx: Broadwater Lake, one on Aug 14th. Bushy Park, recorded in eight months with peak of 21 in September. Finsbury Park, two on Sep 18th & 27th and Oct 3rd. Marble Hill Park, two on R Thames on Apr 9th. Parkland Walk LNR, one on May 5th. Red House Res, two on May 11th. Ruislip Lido, one on Sep 29th. Staines Res, two on Mar 13th.

Bucks: Wraybury GP, singles on Jan 1st and Mar 8th.

Kent: Darenth Lakes, singles on Feb 5th and Mar 14th. Sevenoaks WR, three on Aug 25th and two on Sep 14th. South Darenth, one on R Darenth on Apr 1st.

Surrey: Canbury Gardens, two on Apr 1st. Holmethorpe SP, singles on Jul 12th & 13th and one or two on several dates in October. Kew Gardens, four on Sep 18th. Kingston-upon-Thames, two on Apr 1st & 20th, eight on Aug 8th. London Wetland Centre, two on Mar 18th and Apr 16th, a drake on Oct 6th and a fem on the 15th. Queens Promenade, singles on Apr 29th and May 16th. R Thames between Richmond and Teddington, recorded March to July with peak of 12 in May. Ravens Ait, two on May 3rd. Richmond Park, reported regularly with peak of 21 on Feb 2nd. Seething Wells, two on May 3rd. Teddington Lock (2); reported regularly with peak of 12 on Jun 1st. Thorpe Water Park,

one on Sep 22nd and Oct 13th. Walton Res, one on Aug 26th and two on Sep 8th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, three in March and a pair seen infrequently until Oct 15th. A pair bred here for the first time in 2011, but there was no repeat this year. Buckingham Palace Gdns, one on Aug 15th and two on Sep 15th. Burgess Park, two on Apr 4th. Camden Lock, one on Apr 7th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1); highest count ten on Jan 30th. Lambeth Bridge, singles on R Thames in January, April and November. Paddington Green, one on Mar 30th. Regent's Park (2); peak of 74 on Jan 19th and Feb 11th. St James's Park, three fully-winged drakes among the pinioned birds on Jan 3rd. Victoria Park (1); peak of seven in November.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Status: common winter visitor and migrant, scarce breeder.

The first winter period was cold but there were no long spells of freezing weather to drive wildfowl on to the larger reservoirs in search of unfrozen water. In fact the biggest total was 285 at Wraysbury GP on January 1st, whereas the highest last year was 400 at Staines Res. There was a small increase in reports of breeding to 53 broods from 13 sites (30 from ten last year) with probable breeding at at least three other sites. A pair bred at Wimbledon Common for the first time since 1974. All monthly peak counts of more than 60 birds are shown in the table below, and all breeding records (no. of broods in brackets) follow.

Common Pochard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Walthamstow Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	159	184	-	-	-	-
HR Aldenham CP	86	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amwell NR	66	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bury Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	76	107	75	-
Hilfield Park Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	158	200	-	-	-	-
MX Broadwater Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-
Staines Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
BU Wraysbury GP	285	63	76	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SY Thorpe Water Pk	77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	103	77	118
IL Hyde Pk/Kensington Gdns	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regent's Park	216	-	118	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Essex: Rainham Marshes (3). Walthamstow Res (9).

Herts: Maple Lodge NR (4). Rye Meads (17). Stocker's Lake (1). Verulamium Park (1).

Middx: Boxer's Lake, Enfield (1). Clissold Park (2). Grovelands Park (1).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre (9). Wimbledon Common (1).

In Lond: Battersea Park (1). St James's Park (3).

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

Status: rare vagrant.

A single record is typical. It was found in the same month and just three miles from last year's female at Thamesmere West Lake, raising the possibility that it was a returning bird.

Kent: Danson Park, a fem from Jan 31st to Feb 1st (RT *et al*).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Status: regular resident breeder and common winter visitor.

Walthamstow Reservoirs can be relied on for the biggest post-breeding flocks of this species. This year there was an August peak of 2,406 (just one more than last year's count for that month) and 1,965 in July. These two counts were the only ones over the WeBS national threshold of 1,100. Winter totals were unexceptional, no doubt because of the lack of long spells of freezing weather. Seven sites had winter counts of 500 or more (eight last year) with a high of 857 at Horton GP in December (1,000 in severe weather at Broadwater Lake in February last year). The highest Inner London counts were 213 at Regent's Park in March and 170 at Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens in January. Peak monthly counts of more than 100 at sites recording 500 or more are given in the table below. It was the best year for breeding since 2002, with 232 broods from 57 sites (138 from 31 last year). London Wetland Centre was the most productive venue, with 67 broods and a minimum of 402 young, followed by Rye Meads with 40 broods and at least 219 ducklings. Coverage of breeding birds will inevitably vary from year to year but this species is increasing nationally: the 2013 *BBS Report* noted an increase of 6% in 2012/13 and of 42% between 1995 and 2012.

The female with a red bill-saddle fitted at São Jacinto Dunes NR, Portugal and first seen in 2011 was reported regularly from East India Dock Basin and Millwall Docks between January and May, and in July.

Tufted Duck	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX KGV Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000	-	-	-	-
Walthamstow Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	1965	2406	-	-	-	100
MX KGV Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	559	507	-	-	-	-
Staines Res	470	-	-	-	-	-	1012	-	-	-	-	-
BU Horton GP	322	245	137	*	-	-	-	-	420	-	-	857
Wraysbury GP	691	453	512	406	-	-	-	-	463	-	-	771
SY QE II Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	612	783	513	-	-	142

Essex: 18 broods. Walthamstow Res (12)

Herts: 53 broods. Maple Lodge NR (4). Rye Meads (40). Verulamium Park (3).

Middx: 31 broods. Clissold Park (8). Red House Res (5).

Kent: Eight broods. Dartford Marshes (3). Foots Cray Meadows (3).

Surrey: 109 broods. Holmethorpe SP (5). London Wetland Centre (67). Walton Res (6).

In Lond: 13 broods. Battersea Park (2). Paddington Basin (3). St James's Park (2). Victoria Park (2).

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Status: regular but uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional large influxes during cold weather.

A total of about 28 birds from 15 sites was reported, the lowest since 2008. There were 40 birds from 19 sites last year, partly thanks to a very cold spell in February. Staines Res was the best site, with 12, though ducks tend to move between the large reservoirs in the west of the London Area, making precise counting tricky.

Essex: Fairlop Waters, a fem on Feb 8th and Mar 13th. KGV Res, a fem from Mar 20th to Apr 10th and a drake on May 11th. Nazeing Meads, a fem on Apr 25th. Weald Park a fem on Mar 3rd. William Girling Res, a fem on May 13th.

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, last year's fem from Jan 1st-11th and a drake on Apr 28th.

Middx: KGV Res, a drake on Jun 30th (also seen at Staines Res). Staines Res, last year's 1st-winter fem and 1st-winter drake from Jan 1st to Mar 5th; fem Mar 13th; two females Mar 23rd-29th; a drake from Jun 1st to Aug 2nd; two juvs Oct 26th-28th and one until the end of the year; a 1st-winter drake and three fem/imms on Dec 9th and two of the fem/imms still on Dec 10th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, a drake on Jan 2nd. London Wetland Centre, a fem on Jan 30th. QE II Res, a drake from Jan 10th-11th. Waddon Ponds, a fem/imm on Aug 26th. Walton Res, drakes on Jan 29th and Jul 5th, the latter also seen at Staines Res.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, a fem from Jan 1st-4th.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Status: scarce recently, but was annual visitor.

About nine were recorded (six in 2012), including a very unusual record of a wandering adult female found at Peckham Rye Park on June 1st that summered on small lakes and

Long-tailed Duck was for many years a tricky bird to see in London. Recently, however, birders have been able to take their pick, and this bird at Canada Water, yards from a busy supermarket car-park, gave splendid views. (Jonathan Lethbridge)



docks in south-east and east London. Totals for the past two years may represent a return to form for this species, after none were found in London from 2006/07 to 2010/11. There has been a decline in the numbers in the Baltic Sea from 1992/3 to 2011 of about 80% (Skov, H. *et al*, 2011, *Waterbird Populations and Pressures in the Baltic Sea*, Copenhagen). The tables below compare recent records although the data is very difficult to analyse, because of the possibility of one bird being the source of several records. One female was also believed to be present every winter from March 1991 to January 2000.

Long-tailed Duck records 2000-2012: 16 records, 13 or 14 birds

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2011	2012
No. of records	3*	1	1	2	2*	0*	1	6
No. of birds	3*	1	1	2	2*	0*	1	3/4

* also overwintering birds from previous year

Long-tailed Duck records 1990-1999: 25 records, 21 birds

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. of records	1	4*	4*	3*	2*	0*	3*	1*	2	5
No. of birds	2	2*	4*	3*	2*	0*	3*	1*	2	2

* also overwintering birds from previous year.

Essex: Banbury Res, a fem from Sep 28th-29th and on Oct 3rd (PLt). Fairlop CP, an adult drake on May 4th (NTw, ATH). KGV Res, a fem reported on several dates between Mar 19th and Apr 13th and a drake on Mar 29th-31st. A bird of unspecified gender was reported on Apr 1st (MSd, NS *et al*). Walthamstow Res, a drake and a fem on Jan 18th and the fem from Banbury Res from Oct 24th-25th (MMe, PW *et al*). William Girling Res, a drake on Jan 7th, a drake and a fem/imm from Jan 16th-17th, and one on Jan 27th (MD, DL, IL).

Herts: Amwell NR, an adult fem on Oct 30th (WL, PBa).

Middx: East India Dock Basin, adult fem on Jul 4th (same as Kent, Surrey and In Lond) (JKA). Staines Res, a fem from Mar 31st to Apr 14th (same as Bucks) (REI). Wraysbury Res, fem on Jan 1st (same as Q. Mother Res) (DJM, AVM).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, fem from Jan 2nd to Mar 26th (the wintering fem from 2012) (mo). Wraysbury GP, the same bird was present on Mar 30th (CDRH).

Kent: Greenwich Park, adult fem on Jun 7th (same as Middx, Surrey and In Lond) (JBe).

Surrey: Peckham Rye Park, adult fem from Jun 1st-4th (same as above) (RHB, JKA).

In Lond: The wide-ranging adult fem was first seen in this sector on Jun 8th at Canada Water and was reported there, at Russia Dock Woodland and at Surrey Water on many dates until Aug 26th (RHB *et al*).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Status: passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, never numerous.

An estimated 33 birds from 12 sites was a sharp fall from last year's impressive 138 from 18, but still a respectable total. As usual, the Lower Thames accounted for most, with about 12 birds, but Q. Mother Res had a good year with nine and there were seven at Staines Res. Allowance has been made for duplication of sightings from Lower Thames sites. The chart below shows the arrival dates for these records.



Goldeneye. (Andrew Moon)

Kent: Dartford Marshes, two on the R Thames on Nov 21st.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Jan 14th. Victoria Park, one on Jan 11th.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Status: winter visitor in highly variable but declining numbers.

Only Wraysbury GP recorded counts of ten or more birds, with a peak count of 17 on January 25th. Last year there were double-figure counts from Wraysbury GP (26) and Staines Res (21) during the cold spell in February. There was a good spread of records, with birds at 36 sites (32 last year) and a total of perhaps 70 in the London Area, about 55 of these in the first winter period. There was a very early returning bird at KGV Res on September 27th: the earliest ever was on August 30th 2003 at the same site. The last in spring were three at Heron Lake on April 6th. Counts of five or more are given below.

Essex: Fishers Green, six on Jan 28th.

Herts: Cheshunt GPs, six on Jan 28th and five on Feb 3rd.

Middx: Staines Res, nine on Feb 14th.

Bucks: Heron Lakes, eight on Jan 1st; seven on Feb 16th. Wraysbury GP, 17 on Jan 25th; six on Feb 3rd; seven on Mar 8th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

A poor year with just 13 birds at eight sites (22 from 16 last year), the lowest total since 2009, when there were ten. The largest gathering was just three at the Lower Thames

in November. The female that wintered at Walthamstow Res from December 2005 to 2012, often visiting other Lea Valley sites, failed to reappear.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, an imm drake on Apr 9th, a fem on Jul 16th and three females on Nov 21st.

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, a drake on Apr 3rd.

Middx: Kempton Park Race Course, a 1st-winter drake and a fem on Nov 10th.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, three females on Nov 21st (same as Rainham Marshes).

Surrey: Island Barn Res, a 1st-winter drake and fem on Oct 25th (same as Kempton Park Race Course), with the drake returning from Dec 7th-13th. London Wetland Centre, a fem on Jan 8th. QE II Res, a drake on Jan 4th and Feb 26th; two females on Dec 5th with one lingering until 14th. Walton Res, a drake on Feb 8th, 15th, 16th & 19th (same as QE II Res); a drake on Apr 3rd.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Status: regular winter visitor, very rare in summer.

Recorded at 70 sites (78 last year) but fewer larger gatherings: only one count of more than 20 (at three sites in 2012) and counts of ten or more at only eight sites (13 last year). The highest count was 22 at QE II Res in January (32 at Wraysbury GP in December 2012). The last record in spring was two at KGV Res on April 14th and the first returning birds were two at the same site on September 22nd. Counts of ten or more and both Inner London records are given below.

Essex: KGV Res, 15 on Mar 31st and ten on Dec 24th. Walthamstow Res, ten on Feb 25th.

Herts: North Met Pit, 11 on Feb 9th.

Middx: Wraysbury Res, 11 on Mar 27th and 15 on Dec 17th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 15 on Jan 1st, 12 on Feb 12th and 11 on Mar 20th.

Surrey: QE II Res, 22 on Jan 25th, 19 on Feb 28th and ten on Dec 10th. Walton Res, ten on Feb 19th.

In Lond: A drake was at Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns on Jan 1st and two drakes flew SW there on Jan 25th.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Status: formerly a widespread winter visitor and localised breeder of non-native origin; now much declined due to nationwide eradication programme.

The decline continues, with just 19 recorded from eight sites this year, with the only double-figure count being ten at Brent Res on January 1st. There were records from 14 sites last year, with three counts of ten or more at Brent Res. The only attempt at breeding - by one pair at Brent Res - is believed to have been foiled by heavy rain. By July 2013, the UK population was estimated to be about 50 birds by RINSE (Reducing the Impacts of Non-native Species in Europe),

(RINSE, *UK Ruddy Duck Eradication Programme*, Iain Henderson - rinse-europe.eu/assets/___files/bestpracticepresentation_ruddyduck.pdf)

Essex: Walthamstow Res, a drake on Jan 13th, 19th, 22nd & 27th.

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, three from Jan 1st-15th, then a pair until Oct 1st.

Middx: Brent Res, ten on Jan 1st; five until Jan 16th then up to three until Oct 12th.

Display noted on Jun 30th but single breeding attempt failed. Staines Res, a drake from Jan 1st-28th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, one on Jan 13th and Feb 24th. London Wetland Centre, one from Jul 29th to Aug 30th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Jan 11th. St James's Park, a free-flying bird on Jun 24th.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Status: breeding resident, of introduced origin.

Though breeding activity was probably under-recorded the vast majority of records again hailed from farmland in Essex and Herts, where 40 sites provided records. A Bucks record was unusual but five Inner London records of four birds were even more unusual, being the first Inner London records since a single record in 2005. At Staines Moor in September 2014, falconers were observed releasing two Red-legged Partridge from a bag and then flying their birds at them. Such practice may account for the occasional sightings of both species of partridge at Staines Moor and the nearby reservoirs, which otherwise is difficult to explain. The same may go for records elsewhere in the London area, too. All breeding records are given below (no. of pairs/territories in brackets), with all high counts and all records for the Middx, Bucks, Kent, Surrey and Inner London sectors.

Essex: Recorded from 12 sites, several in the breeding season. Nazeing (2). Orsett Fen (4); a maximum of 204 on Sep 16th, the majority reared for shooting, and c30 in the nearby Baker Street area.

Herts: Recorded from 28 sites, several in the breeding season. Beech Farm GP (1+). Coopers Green Lane (1+). Coursers Farm, 19 on Mar 17th. Hatfield Aerodrome (1+). Newgate Street (2+). Symondshyde Farm, 17 on Oct 4th. Tyttenhanger Farm (2+). West End, 15 on Oct 26th. West Hyde (1). Woodside, Hatfield (1+); 13 on Nov 14th.

Middx: Bay Farm (1). Edgwarebury (1). Enfield Chase Area: Ferny Hill Farm, five records included six on Jan 9th; Holly Hill Farm (1); Park Farm, five records of up to two birds; Parkside Farm (1); Plumridge Farm (1); Rectory Farm (1), four young; South Barvin Farm, male on Jun 20th; Vicarage Farm, one on Apr 15th. Staines Moor, one on Apr 20th was thought to be a released bird. Ten Acre Wood, singles on four dates. Trent Park, pair on Jan 21st and one on Mar 4th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Mar 16th.

Kent: Chipstead, one dead on Mar 28th. Crayford/Dartford Marshes, one on Apr 25th. Petts Wood, one on Nov 29th was unusual here. Sevenoaks WR, one on Mar 25th and two on Apr 17th.

Surrey: Canons Farm, up to two present January to May. Cheverells Farm, four on Apr 9th. Ridlands, one on Jul 2nd. Rushett Farm, two on Apr 28th and May 17th; noted that the arrival of this species coincides with loss of Grey Partridge. South Norwood Lake, one on Apr 29th taking bread near the main entrance was the first site record. Wandle Park, Croydon, one on Jan 7th, 13th & 17th.

In Lond: Buckingham Palace Gdns, one on Aug 15th. Little Venice, one on Apr 21st running along the canal paths and on a boat roof. Paddington Green, one on Apr 27th was presumed to be the Little Venice bird. Regent's Park, one on Mar 18th and Apr 10th was the second site record. Westminster, one on Apr 20th seen wandering near astroturf pitches!

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Status: breeding resident, declining.

A further breeding decline with possible breeding at just one site compared to three sites in 2012. Records came from ten sites, the same as in 2012. All records are given below. Two species of partridge at Q. Mother Res is an unusual event (but see comment under Red-legged Partridge).

Essex: Grey Goose Farm, two on Feb 19th. Mar Dyke Valley, one on Jul 22nd. Walthamstow Marsh, one on Apr 25th.

Herts: Hatfield Aerodrome; possibly bred, present from Mar 9th to Apr 12th with three calling on Apr 6th. Panshanger Aerodrome, two on Aug 16th. Stanstead Abbots, four on Nov 23rd. Tyttenhanger Farm, one on Apr 16th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Apr 15th.

Surrey: Cheverells Farm, two on Apr 9th. Rushett Farm, there were no records this year although there have been in the previous three years.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Status: rare summer visitor.

Three birds this year is fewer than in recent years but the April records are very unusual and two in one year even more so. There only appear to be two April records since 1950: one on April 29th in 1987 and one on April 30th in 1992. The earliest is April 17th in 1912 (*The Birds of the London Area since 1900*), so the Fairlop Waters bird seems to be the earliest ever in London.

Essex: Fairlop Waters, one on Apr 14th (AAB). Wanstead Flats, one from Aug 24th-25th (BV).

Herts: Hatfield Aerodrome, one on Apr 29th (SCh).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Status: common breeding resident, of introduced origin.

Herts data was again impressive with a minimum of 78 territorial males/pairs. Essex records were again probably a poor reflection of the true numbers. All breeding records (no. of pairs/territories in brackets) are given below, with high counts and other significant records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (2). Gallions Reach, one on Feb 27th was unusual. Mar Dyke Valley (1). Orsett Fen (3), five juvs on Sep 2nd; 42 on Oct 4th. Rainham Marshes (1).

Herts: Gomwell NR (1-2); 11 on Oct 20th. Bayfordbury (1). Bedmond (5). Beech Farm GP (2). Brickendonbury, 46 on Sep 23rd including one all-white bird. Brookmans Park (3+). Broxbourne Woods (1). Chess Valley (2+). Cole Green Tip (1). Coopers Green Lane (1). Croxley Common Moor (1). Elstree (3). Essendon (11); 21 on Apr 23rd. Essendonbury (3). Gobions Wood (1). Great Amwell (1). Hailey (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (1). Hatfield Park (1+). Hertingfordbury (5). Hilfield Park Res (2+), three broods, with eight juvs on Sep 14th. Hoddesdon (1). Jersey Farm (1). Lynsters Farm (3). Newgate Street (3+); 17 on Sep 1st. North Mymms Park (1); 22 on Jan 19th. Northaw Great Wood (3). Post Wood (1). Radlett (1+). Rye Meads (2); 13 on Nov 9th. Smallford GP (1). St Albans (1). Stanstead Abbots (1). Stocker's Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). West End (1). West Hyde (1).



Red-legged Partridge are plentiful on the fringes of the area. (Dominic Mitchell - www.birdingetc.com)

Wood Hall Estate (2+); 11 on Apr 25th. Woodside, Hatfield (1+); 100+ on Oct 12th. Wormleybury (2).

Middx: Enfield Chase Area: Park Farm (1-2), broods of six and one young; South Lodge Farm (1), four young seen; Vicarage Farm (1), two young seen. Fir & Pond Woods (1). Home Park (5); ten on Jan 26th. Horsenden Hill (1-2); six young seen. Staines Moor (1), two young seen. Ten Acre Wood (2+), two broods seen. Tottenham Marshes (3).

Kent: Chipstead Lake, up to three March to May with eight on Nov 12th. Crossness (2); eight young on Jun 2nd. Darent Lakes, up to two April to August. Footh Cray Meadows (1). Kemsing, three February to April. Manor Farm, 40 on Aug 20th. Sevenoaks WR; up to five in spring, ten on Nov 7th. Sundridge (1). Swanscombe Marshes, brood of six flushed on Aug 6th.

Surrey: Arbrook Common (1+). Bookham Common, seven on Nov 5th. Canons Farm, 19 on Mar 18th. Lloyd Park, Croydon, one on May 5th was unusual. Rushett Farm (3). South Norwood CP, max nine on Nov 28th. The Ledges, Esher (1+). West End Common (1). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, two on Mar 20th was the year's only record.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Status: rare winter visitor and occasional migrant.

This year's records consist of a widely reported straggler from 2012 and two new birds. All the records on the south-western reservoirs in the first half of the year are thought to relate to the same bird, present since December 2012, which remained in the area until the late date of June 10th. An oiled bird at Rainham Marshes in April was likely the same one on the R Thames near Fulham three days later. The final record was on Staines Res on October 13th.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, an oiled bird on Apr 6th (JW *et al*).

Middx: KGVI Res, one from 2012 present irregularly from Jan 1st to Mar 10th (REI *et al*) and again on Jun 6th (DJM). R Thames, Fulham/Putney, an oiled bird on Apr 9th (JPPW, BW, RK *et al*). Staines Res, one present irregularly from Jan 1st to Jun 10th (REI *et al*); one in summer plumage on Oct 13th (AVM, KLP).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on five dates between Apr 27th and May 28th (CDRH).

Surrey: QE II Res, one on May 14th (DMH).

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Status: rare winter visitor and occasional migrant.

Up to three birds were recorded, the first records since 2010, with one at the start of the year that moved from Q. Mother Res to KGVI Res and then briefly to Staines Res, and

probably two short-staying birds in November. This is the highest total since 1997 when four birds were seen, including one which had overwintered from 1996. For three lucky observers on January 28th at KGV Res, all three species of diver were on view; this is the first time this has happened in London.

Middx: KGV Res, juv intermittently from Jan 28th to Mar 10th; same as Q. Mother Res (AVM *et al*). Staines Res, one on Mar 14th (DJM).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, juv from Jan 12th-27th (AJC, DHw *et al*).

Surrey: QE II Res, one on Nov 10th (DMH).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Status: scarce winter visitor and occasional migrant, often after hard weather.

Numbers were quite low this year, compared to recent years. There was probably just the one bird at the start of the year, which had originally arrived in December 2012. At the end of the year there was one flying up the Thames in November, followed by probably three birds in December, one in the Lea Valley and the others on the south-western reservoirs.

Essex: Gallions Reach, one upriver on Nov 3rd (PD, GAJ). KGV Res, one on Dec 24th (DBr). Walthamstow Res, juv on Dec 22nd (PLa).

Middx: KGV Res, one from 2012, from Jan 1st-8th and Jan 26th to Feb 3rd (REI *et al*); one on Dec 24th (same as at Staines Res) (REI). Staines Res, one from Feb 1st to Mar 25th (KLP *et al*); one on Dec 24th (REI).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, imm on Mar 26th (CDRH, CLI).

Surrey: Walton Res, one from Dec 22nd-28th (DMH).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Status: widespread breeding resident on most suitable waters, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

Reported breeding numbers were up on last year with around 156 pairs (108 in 2012). However, the increase was due to a count of 47 territories from Rainham Marshes where no count was reported in 2012, so there is little sign of any real change. An unseasonal breeding record occurred at Watermeads (Surrey), where a pair with one juvenile were seen on January 7th and 19th. However, this attempt seems to have failed as there was no sign of the juvenile on 27th.

Birds were reported from 77 different sites during January and February and from 97 sites during November and December. The January/February figure is similar to recent years, but the November/December one is substantially higher, with the corresponding figures for the previous three years being 56, 59 and 69 sites.

A summary is given below, along with breeding records from the main sites (no. of pairs in brackets), and the maximum count from each sector.

Essex: 61 pairs/broods at six sites. Rainham Marshes (47). Walthamstow Res (ten broods, 23 young fledged), 34 on Feb 9th.

Herts: 13+ pairs at eight sites. Maple Lodge NR (4). Rye Meads (16); 63 on Sep 20th.

Middx: Nine pairs at seven sites. Brent Res, 24 on Oct 16th. Kempton NR (3).

Bucks: No breeding records. Maximum count of three at three different sites.

Kent: Ten pairs at four sites. Crossness (7). Sevenoaks WR, 12 on Jan 13th.

Surrey: 42 pairs/broods at 17 sites. Beddington Farmlands (4). Holmethorpe SP (5+ broods); 21 on Aug 11th including two young. London Wetland Centre (16 pairs, 9 broods, 18+ young fledged).

In Lond: Battersea Park (1). Regent's Park (3+); 12 on Aug 12th including three young. Victoria Park (1).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

A total of 103 pairs/broods were reported, an increase on last year when only 83 were recorded. The number doubled in Essex, partly the result of an improvement at Walthamstow Res which had suffered a poor year in 2012 when only eight broods were seen. Numbers in Herts remain lower than in recent years, but there have been no recent counts from Cheshunt GPs (nine broods in 2011; 11 broods in 2010).

Records from Hilfield Park Res included an adult still feeding a well grown young bird on the late date of November 3rd, and a pair displaying on December 15th.

Monthly counts from the more significant sites are shown in the table below, with breeding totals and significant counts from other sites shown below that.

Great Crested Grebe		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MX	KGVI Res	18	23	5	2	12	32	35	25	17	20	29	81
	Q. Mary Res	-	13	-	27	-	-	107	102	168	185	145	209
SY	QE II Res	17	15	29	21	32	31	104	108	108	70	38	25

There were no counts this year from Staines Res.

Essex: 22 pairs/broods at eight sites. Gallions Reach, 47 on Dec 1st. Walthamstow Res (13 broods, 29 young fledged).

Herts: 26+ pairs/broods at 17 sites. Hilfield Park Res (7 broods); 100 on Sep 8th.

Middx: 17 pairs at 13 sites. Wraysbury Res, 75 on Mar 27th.

Bucks: Ten pairs at four sites. Wraysbury GP (6+ pairs); 43 on Sep 30th.

Kent: At least nine pairs from seven sites.

Surrey: 13 pairs/broods at seven sites. Holmethorpe SP (four broods). Island Barn Res, 50 on Oct 19th.

In Lond: Eight broods/pairs at five sites. Battersea Park (1 brood). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3 broods); 26 on May 30th. Regent's Park (2 broods). Rotherhithe (1 pair). St James's Park (1 pair).

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

There were just two records this year, both from Surrey. This is slightly below the recent average with 32 birds being seen during the previous ten years. As the table below shows, in recent years they are more likely to turn up from December to February than these October and November birds.

Red-necked Grebe arrival dates 2000-2012: 50 birds, 50 records*

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	10	8	1	-	1	2	1	2	5	4	6	10

*one overwintered 1999-2000 and one 2010-11.

Surrey: Richmond Park, one on Pen Ponds from Oct 15th-16th (SN, SRo, GRu, M L). Thorpe Water Park, one on Nov 22nd (DGDL).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

A good year with possibly 17 birds involved, the highest since 2003 when there were 13. The Alexandra Park bird was believed to be the bird from Walthamstow Res which was absent that day. There were possibly eight birds involved in the early winter records (one staying until April 14th), then seven spring passage birds, one autumn passage and two late winter ones.

The arrival dates are fairly typical:

Slavonian Grebe arrival dates 2000-2012: 107 records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	22	20	4	11	-	-	-	2	4	10	17	17

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, one on Jan 28th. Rainham Marshes, singles on Jan 17th & 24th.

Walthamstow Res, one on Jan 21st, one from Feb 23rd to Apr 14th. William Girling Res, singles on Jan 17th & 27th, Feb 2nd and Mar 29th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, one on Apr 12th. Brent Res, one on Mar 4th. Staines Res, one from Mar 29th to Apr 1st, a different individual from Apr 10th-16th, juv on Oct 15th, one on Dec 3rd and one on 29th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, singles from Jan 1st-12th & 17th and from Feb 4th-14th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Jan 24th. Littlebrook Lake, one from Jan 19th to Feb 16th.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, one in summer plumage on Apr 20th. Walton Res, singles on Feb 22nd, Mar 10th and from Apr 2nd-7th and a different individual on Apr 11th.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Status: passage and winter migrant and rare breeder.

At the main breeding site at Hilfield Park Res, four pairs were thought to have bred, of which two were successful, fledging a single chick each. A blind adult was observed at this site from July 18th to 19th.

Records elsewhere were fairly typical, though only a small number of records were received from the main wintering site at William Girling Res. Monthly maxima for the three main sites are shown in the table, followed by records from other sites (no. of breeding pairs in brackets).

Black-necked Grebe maxima		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX	Wm Girling Res	10	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-
HR	Hilfield Park Res	-	3	15	19	20	25	15	4	1	1	3	2
MX	Staines Res	1	3	2	3	3	2	5	5	4	3	3	3



This Slavonian Grebe appeared on Littlebrook Lake, a small lake in Dartford, during a cold snap and came progressively closer to photographers' lenses as the ice continued to form. (Mick Southcott)

Essex: Gallions Reach, two on Apr 12th. KGV Res, up to four on five dates in April, then singles from Aug 2th-29th and on Nov 3rd. Rainham Marshes, one on Mar 9th and two on May 20th. Walthamstow Res, one on Mar 21st.

Herts: Hilfield Park Res (4). Rye Meads, two on May 21st. Tyttenhanger GP, singles on Mar 24th and Apr 19th.

Middx: KGV Res, one on Aug 26th and two on 30th, one to two on six dates between Oct 2nd and Nov 10th. Q. Mary Res, one on Feb 9th. Stain Hill Res, singles from Oct 14th-15th and on Nov 10th & 24th. Wraysbury Res, imm on Sep 8th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Apr 10th then four on 26th, singles on May 7th and Jul 20th & 23rd.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, one on Aug 25th.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, one on Apr 13th, juv on Aug 16th. London Wetland Centre, two on Jun 19th. QE II Res, one on Nov 13th. Walton Res, one on Sep 22nd.

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Status: rare visitor.

There was just one record this year, a single bird that was first seen at Gallions Reach and then on the water at Crossness. There have been records since 1980 in all months except January; this is only the third September record in that time. There were a lot more records in the 1980s than there have been in any decade since. Seventeen of the 29 records below were in the 1980s.

Northern Fulmar arrival dates 1980-2012: 29 records, 30 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	-	3	3	4	6	2	3	1	2	1	1	3

Essex: Gallions Reach, one on Sep 29th (PD, GAJ).

Kent: Crossness, one from Sep 29th-30th (JKA *et al*).

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Status: scarce visitor.

Just three accepted records this year, which is back to more normal standards after the records of six in 2010 and 2012. They were all singles seen on just one day in July, October and November. The November record is the first recent record for that month (see table below). The additional record for 2012, at a typical autumn date, makes that seven records in that year which is the highest number since at least 2000.

Northern Gannet arrival dates 2000-2012: 32 records, 40 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	1	-	-	-	1	4	2	-	12	7	-	5
No. of birds	1	-	-	-	1	4	2	-	20	7	-	5

Midxx: Wraysbury Res, 4th-year on Jul 28th (CDRH *et al*).

Surrey: QE II Res, juv E on Nov 6th (DMH). South Norwood CP, juv SE on Oct 14th (DD, JHu).

2012 Addition

Essex: Wanstead Park, one over on Sep 25th (NC).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Status: increasing breeding resident and common on suitable water-bodies elsewhere, especially in winter.

Breeding was confirmed at just three sites this year, with no information received from Holyfield Lake, where 27+ nests were occupied in 2012. Breeding numbers were again down at Walthamstow Res, from 226 in 2012, but the single count of 178 occupied nests on March 5th was believed to be an underestimate and many young were seen on later dates. Outside the breeding season, QE II Res and Staines Res both recorded counts of nationally significant numbers (over 350).

An Estonian bird bearing a blue ring, which had previously been seen at Rotherhithe in November 2012, was at East India Dock Basin intermittently from September 20th to December 13th. Another ringed bird seen in December at Seething Wells was ringed as a nestling in the Netherlands in 2010 and previously seen at QE II Res in 2010 and 2012. It was of the race *P. c. sinensis*.

Records of birds showing characteristics of the race *P. c. sinensis* were also received from Horsenden Hill, South Norwood Lake and Stanborough Lakes. It is believed that the first breeding birds in the London Area were *sinensis* and a study at Walthamstow Res in 1982 found 82% were *sinensis*, 13% were *P. c. carbo* and the rest undetermined (*The Breeding Birds of the London Area 2002*). The proportion of *carbo* is believed to have

increased subsequently, but close observation is required to determine race and there have been no recent studies to confirm current proportions.

The table below shows monthly maxima from regularly counted sites with larger numbers. Breeding records (no. of nests in brackets) and notable counts from other localities are shown below that.

Cormorant counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MX Q. Mary Res	-	15	146	51	-	-	58	9	-	33	25	164
KGVI Res	6	-	2	-	-	2	4	4	-	346	200	53
SY QE II Res	145	115	132	42	43	21	83	230	290	461	149	8
Walton Res	7	5	3	1	4	2	5	205	128	185	1	13
Wetland Centre	20	221	141	8	3	3	1	5	-	9	20	33

Essex: Fairlop Waters, 70 on Dec 8th. Gallions Reach, 54 on Dec 7th. KGV Res, 100 on Nov 20th. Rainham Marshes, 50 on Aug 10th. Walthamstow Res (178+).

Herts: Amwell NR (24); 42 at roost on Jan 19th.

Middx: Broadwater Lake (23). Staines Res, counts of 200+ on six dates between Oct 22nd and Nov 6th with maximum of 559 on Nov 1st.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 78 on Nov 9th. Wraysbury GP, 94 on Sep 30th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, 45 on Jan 26th.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, 62 on Dec 15th. R Thames: Putney Bridge to Battersea Bridge, 101 on Dec 15th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, 220 on Feb 14th. Westminster Bridge, 100+ on Thames on Feb 5th.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Status: irregular visitor, usually in winter, occasionally in good numbers.

There were only three birds this year which is low in comparison with the previous ten years, though no birds were seen at all in 2004. The two juveniles at Q. Mother Res were seen together for the first few days of their stay, but usually fed separately after November 8th, being seen together again briefly on 21st and 22nd. The bird recorded at Old Slade Lake is assumed to have been one of the two from this site. The adult in April follows an April bird last year, although only three of the previous 70 records have been in April.

Bucks: Old Slade Lake, juv on Nov 18th & 20th (CDRH). Q. Mother Res, two juvs intermittently from Nov 5th-22nd (CDRH *et al*).

In Lond: South Bank SE1, adult on river on Apr 21st (DJL).

Shag records 2003-2012: 46 birds

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of birds	3*	0	5	5	6	7*	3	4	10	3*

*ignoring one overwintered from previous year

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Status: scarce winter visitor, often returning to favoured sites.

The first winter period brought records from 25 sites (20 in 2012). In the second winter period, birds were recorded from only nine sites (six in 2012). Typically at regular sites,

birds had departed by the end of the first week of April (slightly later than in 2012). The first bird returned to the London Wetland Centre on October 7th. All sites at which birds were recorded are given below, together with peak counts for each site.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, one on Jan 24th. Dagenham Chase, one on Jan 21st, Feb 2nd and Mar 16th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on four dates in Jan; one on Apr 1st. Rainham Marshes, singles on eight dates between Jan 23rd and Apr 5th; one on Nov 15th & 18th. Warren Gorge, one on Dec 9th. Waterworks NR, one from Feb 20th-21st.

Herts: Amwell NR, recorded from Jan 1st to Apr 6th, with a max of three on Feb 7th & 14th; singles recorded from Nov 27th to Dec 28th. Beech Farm GP, one on Jan 31st. Maple Lodge NR, one on Feb 5th. North Met Pit, one on Jan 15th, two on Feb 9th and one on Mar 9th. Rye Meads, one on 11 dates between Jan 12th and Mar 29th; one on Nov 26th. Seventy Acres Lakes, recorded from Jan 1st to 26th, with a max of three on Jan 2nd; one on Dec 29th. Slipe Lane GPs, one on Mar 13th. Stocker's Lake, one from Jan 21st-27th. Turnford Marsh GP, one on Mar 9th.

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Mar 6th; one on Nov 27th. Stanwell Moor, one on seven dates between Jan 6th and Mar 28th; one on Dec 6th & 17th.

Bucks: Thorney CP, one flew over on Jan 23rd.

Kent: Littlebrook Lake, one on six dates between Jan 21st and Mar 1st. Sevenoaks WR, one on eight dates between Jan 13th and Mar 10th. Thames Road Wetland, one on Feb 11th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Apr 6th; one flew over main lake on Dec 7th. London Wetland Centre, recorded from Jan 1st to Apr 6th, with a max of six on three dates in late January and on Feb 7th; recorded from Oct 7th to the year's end, with a max of five on Dec 4th. Thorpe Water Park, one on Manor Lake on Mar 10th. Walton Res, one on Feb 11th. West Molesey, one flew NW at 17:35 on Feb 4th.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Status: rare breeder and visitor in ever increasing frequency and number.

Records came from just shy of 200 sites. Breeding was recorded at six sites. The LNHS is grateful to the BTO for making available the London data from their Little Egret survey. Recorded in all counties, this species nonetheless remains rare in Inner London. As in 2012, the highest counts away from breeding sites were at Rainham Marshes. All breeding records are given below (no. of pairs/nests if known in brackets), as are notable counts and the four records for Inner London.

Sites recording Little Egret by sector

Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond
32	56	37	8	17	42	3

Essex: Netherhall GP (7). Rainham Marshes, the largest numbers here occurred in the second half of July, with a peak count of 53 on Jul 21st. Walthamstow Res (11), 11 broods and 37 young fledged (11 broods and 26 young in 2012). Warren Gorge (6), 16 young fledged.

Herts: Amwell NR (5). Stanborough Lakes, roost peaked at 29 on Jan 6th. Stocker's Lake (5), with at least 12 young fledged; roost peaked in the first winter period at 20 on Feb 2nd and in the second winter period at 19 on Dec 28th.



Another difficult bird to find in London, the Shag is most frequently found on the reservoirs after winter storms. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

Middx: Broadwater Lake, roost peaked at 33 on Nov 29th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP (2).

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, roost peaked at ten on Dec 7th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, two on Jul 13th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Apr 5th & 25th. Victoria Tower Gardens, one N over Houses of Parliament on Sep 2nd.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Status: rare vagrant but increasing.

This species continues to spread in southern England and this year's 13 records beat the previous peak of eight in 2012. In addition, there were a further five records for which no descriptions were received (see App III). The Cassiobury Park record is only the second sighting of more than one bird in the London Area, following two together at Rainham Marshes on June 8th 2008.

Great Egret records 2003-2012: 27 records, 27 birds

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of records	0	0	0	3	2	5	3	3	3	8

Essex: Leyton one on Mar 17th (SF). Mar Dyke Valley, one on May 20th (RBs).

Herts: Cassiobury Park, two flew S at 10:30 am on Apr 29th (IB). Rickmansworth, one flew S at 17:25 on Feb 19th (AVM). Tyttenhanger GP, one from Oct 5th-15th (SPe *et al*), one on Oct 30th (SBI).

Middx: Alexandra Park, one flew over on Mar 6th (DML *et al*). Brent Res, singles in flight on Apr 20th and Sep 30th (ASMS and AGV). Staines Moor, one dropped onto R Colne for three minutes before flying off high W on Nov 10th (LD).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, one on Nov 9th (CDRH).

Kent: Sidcup, one flew SW over York Avenue at 08:42 on Oct 16th (IS).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Oct 5th (ST).

Bitterns spend the winter at a number of London sites, including Stocker's Lake in 2013. (Andrew Moon)

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Status: common breeding resident.

A total of at least 352 nests were reported in 2013 (367 in 2012). This means that the number of nests recorded in London has now fallen in each of the last four years. Details of all heronries at which nest counts were made are given below, with the number of nests in brackets, followed by a few of the highest counts away from known heronries or outside the breeding period.

The LNHS continues to be grateful to the BTO for making available the London data from the long-running Grey Heron survey. As has been the case in recent years, away from these colonies, by far the highest numbers were recorded at Beddington Farmlands.

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley (5). Netherhall GP (38). Rainham Marshes, a peak count of 15 on Jul 20th; significantly lower than the peak count of Little Egret at this site in the same period. Thorndon CP (3). Valentines Park (1). Walthamstow Res (14+), possibly an underestimate. Warren Gorge (7).

Herts: Amwell NR (13). Frogmore Lakes (2). Stanborough Lakes (3). Stocker's Lake (30). Tyttenhanger GP (3). Verulamium Park, (12).

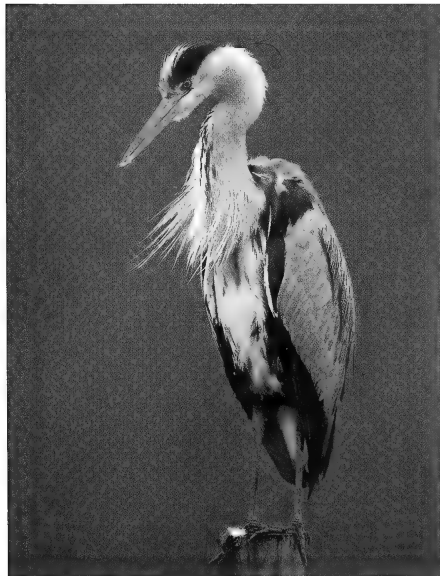
Middx: Broadwater Lake (4). Frays Valley LNR (4). Home Park (3). Kempton Park Res (4). Little Britain Lake (14). Wildwoods (2).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP (15).

Kent: Kelsey Park (20). (This site has been referred to as Kelsey Manor in *LBR* for a number of years but the nests are in Kelsey Park.) Sevenoaks WR (1); 12 on Sep 25th. Swanscombe Marshes (6).

Surrey: Barn Elms Pond (1). Beddington Farmlands, several high counts, with peaks of 60 on Jan 13th and 50 on Jun 23rd. Beddington Park (no nests this year, seven last year). Bookham Common (11). Brentford Ait (17). Corporation Island (12). Gattin Lake (23). Horton CP (8). Leg of Mutton NR (2). London Wetland Centre, peak count of 17 on Feb 13th. Morden Hall Park (15). Richmond Park (1). Sevenoaks WR (1). Thorpe Water Park (3).

Grey Heron. (Jonathan Lethbridge)



In Lond: Battersea Park (30). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3), although nests were abandoned. Regent's Park (21).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Status: very rare vagrant.

As in 2012, there were two records, only the second year in which multiple sightings have occurred. They constituted the eighth and ninth records for London but the first in November. The immature at Rye Meads went missing on a couple of dates and, as well as being seen at Fishers Green, there was an unsubstantiated report of it being seen elsewhere in the upper Lee Valley (see Appendix III). Its lengthy stay at the RSPB reserve afforded many observers their first sighting of the species in the London Area.

Essex: Fishers Green Goosefield, one on Nov 5th was presumably the bird seen later at nearby Rye Meads (CM).

Herts: Rye Meads, imm on Nov 5th, 7th-10th & 12th-13th (GJW *et al*). Tyttenhanger GP, one briefly on Nov 3rd (AJS).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Status: scarce migrant not recorded annually.

After just two accepted records last year, there were six this year which is the highest since 2007. One in March was followed by singles in April and June, then two together in July before a flock of six in September, followed by a flock of nine in October. These autumn record seems to be the largest flocks ever in the London Area. Most previous records have been of just one or two birds, with the previous highest count being four at Stanwell Moor in 2001.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, adult on Mar 11th (MD); adult on Jun 14th (DML); adult and imm from Jul 22nd-26th, with one remaining until Jul 30th (AT *et al*).

Herts: Amwell NR, one flew NE at 13:56 on Apr 2nd (JWD).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, nine photographed on Oct 1st (WWT). West Putney, six flew over SSW at 14:20 on Sep 12th (RK) and then WSW over Richmond Park Pen Ponds at 14:23 (JPPW).

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Status: scarce visitor.

There were four accepted records in 2013, two more than last year. Two were on spring passage and two on autumn passage. But there were reports of another 14 which we have not received any descriptions for (see App III for details). The additional 2012 record was the only spring passage bird that year.

Middx: Alexandra Park, one on May 19th (JJ, JCL).

Kent: Woolwich Common, one on Aug 22nd (JT)

Surrey: Canons Farm, one on Sep 2nd (DCa). Richmond Park, one on May 7th (JPPW, SCz).

2010 and 2012 Additions

Surrey: Chessington, one on Sep 5th 2010 (AGi).

Essex: Walthamstow Res, one on May 6th 2012 (PLt).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Status: scarce but increasing visitor.

Astonishingly, this fabulous raptor has made another prodigious leap forward this year, at least in terms of the number of sightings, which were 1,597 (this compares with 1,086 in 2012 and 1,100 in 2011). It is fair to say that there is a certain amount of duplication involved, but nevertheless the trend remains firmly upwards. As has been the case in previous years the Herts sector dominates with 69% of all records coming from just this corner of our area; in fact closer scrutiny of these sightings reveals that many of them actually refer to repeat sightings from many well known sites - for instance there were 208 reports from the Rickmansworth/Maple Cross area and 189 from Tyttenhanger GP. This represents nearly 25% of all records and is quite logically explained by the fact that this species is now an almost daily sight in these regions: a remarkable contrast with the situation just ten years ago.

Red Kite sightings	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
All counties	119	112	175	275	184	161	139	101	58	74	94	105
Excluding Herts	50	17	47	131	94	44	29	31	12	12	18	6

It is revealing to strip out the Herts records to show the London distribution away from this sector, which perhaps is more indicative of birds moving across our area. April proved to be the most favoured month in terms of the number of sightings with 275 this year, although the period from March to May claimed nearly 40% of all records, which would be consistent with an increase in the number of wandering juveniles, as well as displaying adults. The Surrey sector, with 227 reports this year, is the second most popular county in terms of sightings and with its extensive woodlands would probably prove very attractive to this bird of prey from the breeding point of view.

There were only two suggestions of possible breeding this year, both in the Herts sector: one pair were seen carrying nesting material and at another site two juveniles appeared very shortly after the nesting season. As has been stated in previous years, it remains very improbable that it is not already breeding within London.

Red Kite by sector	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond
Sightings	60	1106	141	18	34	227	11
Percentage	4	69	9	1	2	14	1

In Lond: Battersea, one on Nov 5th. Bermondsey, one on Sep 12th. Brockley NR, one on May 13th. Burdett Road E3, one on May 14th. Hammersmith Cemetery two on Jun 2nd. Kensington, one on Mar 20th. Regent's Park, singles on Mar 19th, Apr 24th and Aug 28th. Victoria Park, one on Apr 18th. Westminster Abbey, one on Jun 20th.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Status: scarce, but increasing passage migrant, has recently bred.

A remarkable year with about 280 records (a new record), however, as has been the case in previous years the almost constant presence of birds at Rainham Marshes (with 161 records) rather distorts this total, in addition there were another 48 sightings from Rye



The chances of seeing Red Kite in London are going up every year, following the increased fortunes of the species nationally. (Andrew Moon)

Meads where a long-staying bird was present from March to September. Away from Rainham Marshes and Rye Meads there were 69 records, with concentrated peaks of passage from March 20th to 29th with nine birds and from May 15th to 22nd with eight birds. Despite birds summering at Rainham and Rye Meads there were no reports of breeding this year - the only successful instance of breeding in London was in 2010.

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, one on Dec 19th. KGV Res, one on Nov 16th. Rainham Marshes, seen in every month of the year, with up to two in January, three in February, four in March, two in April, three in May and June, one in July, four in August, three in September, October and November and four in December. Roding Valley NR, one on Jan 12th. Romford GC, one on Sep 13th. Walthamstow Res, one on May 9th. Wanstead Flats, one on Mar 20th.

Herts: Amwell NR, singles on Mar 28th, Apr 1st, 13th & 30th, May 15th & 22nd and Sep 7th. Cheshunt, one on Jun 1st & 2nd. Maple Lodge NR, one from Jul 22nd to Aug 7th. Rye Meads, a long-staying bird from Mar 29th to Sep 20th. Stanstead Innings, one on Jun 2nd. Stocker's Lake, one on Mar 26th. Woodoaks Farm, one on Mar 27th.

Middx: Brent Res, one on Jan 27th. Kempton NR, singles on Mar 6th and 23rd. Parkside Farm, Enfield, one on May 22nd. Staines Moor, one on Sep 28th (same as Bucks).

Bucks: Horton GP, one on Mar 26th. Q. Mother Res, one on Sep 28th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, singles on Jan 4th & 22nd, Mar 19th, Jul 11th, Dec 12th-31st, with two on Dec 17th. Crossness, one on Apr 20th. Dartford Marshes, one on Feb 23rd. Swanscombe Marshes, one on Apr 23rd & 30th.

Surrey: Banstead Wood, one on Aug 25th, Beddington Farmlands, one on Aug 25th, Sep 14th & 26th. Canons Farm, one on Aug 25th. Holmethorpe SP, singles on May 15th & 19th. London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 6th, May 20th & 21st, Sep 23rd & 24th.

Mickleham, one on Mar 22nd. Richmond Park, one on Mar 28th. Walton Res, singles on Mar 24th & 25th and Apr 6th.

In Lond: Portobello Road, W10, one on Oct 5th. Tower 42, one on May 16th.

Marsh Harrier	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Records	22	14	31	20	25	32	21	36	21	8	24	26
Excluding Rainham/Rye Meads	3	1	12	8	9	3	7	9	8	1	1	7
Individuals/month	4	4	16	11	10	5	5	9	12	4	4	6

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Status: scarce migrant; formerly a regular winter visitor to the Thames-side marshes.

An excellent year with about twelve birds seen; rather unusually, only four of these records came from Thames-side marshes sites. The first was at Chipstead Lake on January 6th. Then, on January 25th, there were records from Staines Moor, Stanwell Moor and Kempton NR which were probably the same bird. The next day it was seen at Stanwell Moor again, and probably the same bird at Q. Mother Res on 27th. A male spent ten days at Rainham Marshes in February, then three more birds arrived in late April and May. The only autumn records were at Rainham Marshes on September 7th and 15th, and another at Brook Farm on 23rd. The last two records were at Sidcup on November 16th and Swanscombe Marshes on December 7th. All birds were ringtails unless stated.

Hen Harrier records 2010-2013: 38 birds

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013
No. of birds	18	4	6	10

Essex: Brook Farm, one on Sep 23rd (RBs). Rainham Marshes, an imm male from Feb 22nd to Mar 4th (KMO, AT *et al*), one on Sep 7th (BCh, RBs *et al*) & 15th (MJ).

Herts: Rye Meads, one on Apr 28th (RMP).

Middx: Kempton NR, one on Jan 25th (CT). Staines Moor, one on Oct 12th (VWl, RWy). Staines Moor and Stanwell Moor, one on Jan 25th & 26th (RA, EBi, VWl, RWy, REI *et al*).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Jan 27th (MIn, NR).

Kent: Chipstead Lake, one on Jan 6th (MCh). Sidcup, a male on Nov 16th (IS). Swanscombe Marshes, one on Dec 7th (JCa, ASMS).

Surrey: Canons Farm, one on May 6th (DCa, PG, IJ) and a male on May 28th (DCa).

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Status: rare migrant.

Just one record this year after none in 2012, although sadly a fleeting visit; the date is typical and there is little to choose between spring and autumn for previous records since 1990, with six between April and June and six in August and September.

Montagu's Harrier arrival dates 1990-2012: 12 records, 12 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	3	3	-	-	-

Herts: Rye Meads, one on May 25th (RMP).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Status: rare passage migrant.

Three accepted records this year after the one last year. This is the pattern for records in London, although each year there are several other reports for which we never receive descriptions. Numbers nationally have steadily increased, with the last report of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel reporting the highest maximum total in their 40-year history (*British Birds*, 107: 525). More descriptions would be welcome, particularly for those records listed in App III.

Goshawk records 2003-2012: 10 records, 10 birds

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of records	1	0	3	0	3	0	0	2	0	1

Essex: South Woodford, male on Apr 14th (KMy).

Herts: Roydon, one NNE on Jul 7th (BWi).

Middx: Kempton NR, one on Mar 6th (CT).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Status: common breeding resident.

This year the number of records reached a new peak of about 1,650 (up from about 1,267 in 2012) and the sightings were fairly evenly distributed across the area with Surrey, Herts, Essex and Middx (in that order) being the most favoured regions. However, the number of pairs proved to have bred reached a low point of 15, although in reality it is likely that the number of territories actually relate to successful breeding pairs. Once again this only represents the tip of the iceberg and its familiarity right across London strongly suggests it is a common breeding bird. Prey items reported this year included: Blackbird, Collared Dove, Greenfinch, House Sparrow, 'pigeon', Snipe, Siskin and a mouse.

The largest count was of six birds over Wanstead Park on April 7th.

Sparrowhawk	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Territories	7	3	9	0	4	15	2	40
Proved	3	0	4	0	0	6	2	15

In Lond: Records were received from: Bankside, Battersea Park, Buckingham Palace, Camley Street, Charing Cross, Haggerston, Hammersmith Cemetery, Harley Street, Holland Park, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Mile End Park, Redman's Road, Regent's Park (1 pair bred), St John's Wood, Stockwell, Victoria, Victoria Park, Westminster and Tower Bridge.

2012 Alteration

In Lond: The Fulham Palace record should have been in Middx, not In Lond.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Status: scarce but increasing breeder, regular migrant/visitor.

Despite a huge surge in the number of sightings of Sparrowhawk, this species was not to be outdone and records swelled to about 2,045 this year. As usual the Herts sector provides

the most records with about 869 (42%), but Middx and Surrey are catching up with close to 400 each (20% each). For such a large and conspicuous raptor it is perhaps not surprising that it is being increasingly reported as it spreads across London and there is no sign that the novelty is wearing off.

Disappointingly, and rather surprisingly, the number of breeding birds, as well as the number of territories has declined markedly this year with just 23 territories and only nine pairs were proved to have bred. It is very likely that breeding success across London is much higher than reported totals would suggest.

April has regained its position as the top month with about 376 reports, followed by 286 in May and 201 in March. There were several noticeable periods of passage across the area: early October with ten over Panshanger (5th), 18 over Richmond Park and ten at Amwell (both 6th) and nine at Hilfield Park Res (7th) and again in early May with ten over Canons Farm (6th) and 17 over Richmond Park (7th). A summary of breeding records, as well as the highest counts are given below.

Common Buzzard	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Territories	5	7	3	0	0	8	0	23
Proved	3	3	1	0	0	2	0	9

Essex: At least five pairs were on territory, of which three bred successfully (at least two birds fledged). Brook Farm, 13 on May 7th.

Herts: At least seven pairs held territory, of which three bred successfully raising a minimum of four juvs. Amwell NR, ten on Oct 6th. Hilfield Park Res, nine on Oct 7th. Panshanger, ten on Oct 5th. Rye Meads, ten on Apr 20th.

Middx: Three pairs were on territory, of which one pair raised one youngster. Little Beechill Wood, nine on Sep 7th.

Kent: No pairs were reported to be on territory. Swanscombe Marshes, seven on Apr 27th.

Surrey: About eight territories were held this year, of which two pairs bred successfully rearing four juvs. Beddington Farmlands, 16 on Apr 20th. Canons Farm, ten on May 6th & 26th. London Wetland Centre, ten on Apr 20th. Richmond Park, 17 on May 7th and 18 on Oct 6th.

In Lond: Records of single birds (unless stated) were received from: Battersea PS, Golden Square, Hammersmith Cemetery, High Holborn, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Paddington Green, Regent's Park where seen on five dates, including five on May 7th and four on Aug 27th. Rotherhithe, two on May 6th.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

Although it is difficult to be sure how much, if any, duplication took place between the various sightings, a total of 33 records (34 birds) is not going to be far away from the truth. This would be similar to the totals of the previous two years (31 in 2011 and 37 in 2012), but well short of the record 57 in 2008.

The first two birds of the spring were seen over Walthamstow Res and Beddington Farmlands on April 8th (rather later than in previous years), further birds followed at Rainham Marshes (12th), then QE II Res and Rye Meads (both 13th). There were four more



This Osprey lingered for over a month around Maple Lodge NR in Herts. (Andrew Moon)

birds by the end of April, then another six by the end of May, although two birds were seen together over Sevenoaks WR on May 25th.

The first returning autumn migrant passed through Epsom on August 22nd, then two more on August 31st (Walthamstow Res and Maple Lodge NR). Four more birds headed south in the first nine days of September, with another four by the end of the month. One at Amwell NR on October 1st may have been responsible for repeated sightings both here at nearby sites until 9th, a juvenile which was missing half of the outer primaries on its left wing (presumably the result of a shotgun injury which, thankfully, didn't prevent it from fishing successfully) arrived at Maple Lodge NR on October 3rd and was finally seen on November 10th (the last of the year). All records are singles unless stated.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, Apr 12th. Walthamstow Res, Apr 8th, Aug 31st, Sep 2nd & 24th.

Herts: Amwell NR, Sep 9th, 18th & 19th, Oct 1st, 6th & 9th. Borehamwood, May 7th.

Hertingfordbury, Sep 15th. Maple Lodge NR, Aug 31st, a juv on Oct 3rd & 4th and presumably the same juv from Oct 20th to Nov 10th. Rye Meads, Apr 13th, May 26th and Oct 6th. Stocker's Lake, May 15th, Oct 21st & 24th (same as Maple Lodge).

Tyttenhanger GP, Apr 21st and May 16th.

Middx: Trent Park, May 7th and Sep 9th.

Kent: Petts Wood, Sep 4th. Sevenoaks Reserve, two on May 25th.

Surrey: Addlestone Mill Pond, Oct 18th. Beddington Farmlands, Apr 8th. Buckland SP, Oct 8th. Coulsdon, May 5th. Epsom, Aug 22nd. Holmethorpe SP, Apr 19th. QE II Res, Apr 13th.

In Lond: St Martin's Lane, Apr 28th.

Kestrel Falco tinnunculus

Status: common breeding resident.

There was an encouraging jump in the number of sightings this year up to approximately 1,513 (1,200 in 2012 and 760 in 2011); these totals are only slightly distorted by a large number of sightings from a few localities - for instance 122 at Wanstead Flats and 149

at Rye Meads. Interestingly, there was a more even distribution of records across London: 485 in Herts, 337 in Surrey, 307 in Essex and 225 in Middx.

Sadly the number of breeding pairs reported to us has fallen again with only 44 territories (down from 66 in 2012 and 53 in 2011), of which only 16 pairs were proved to have bred; more worryingly there were several reports of failed nesting at sites that have been traditionally used over many years and in one instance it sounded as if a pair may have been displaced by a nearby pair of colonising Peregrine Falcons. Along a similar, but depressing, theme reports from the RSPB Croydon Group who monitor Kestrels (as well

Kestrel. (Jonathan Lethbridge)



as other birds) seen from gardens in their area have dropped from 44% of all gardens in 1995 to a mere 14% in 2013. The highest count was of nine birds at Richmond Park on March 28th. All Inner London records below are of single birds unless otherwise stated.

Kestrel	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Totals
Territories	7	4	8	0	2	21	2	44
Proved	4	1	2	0	1	7	1	16

In Lond: Brockley NR, two on May 15th and Aug 1st. Brick Lane, Jun 21st. Charing Cross Hospital, Sep 1st. Earl's Court, Jul 15th. Hammersmith Cemetery, Mar 29th. Holland Park, Apr 15th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Jan 15th, 21st & 29th, Apr 8th, 23rd & 28th, Oct 25th and Nov 18th. Meath Gardens, Feb 5th and Aug 14th. Mile End Park, Apr 8th. Regent's Park, 23 sightings between Apr 7th and Dec 14th; one pair bred successfully raising six youngsters, unfortunately one of the fledglings was killed by a fox. St James's Park, Jun 21st. Tower of London, Jul 2nd. West Brompton, Jun 21st. West Cromwell Road, Mar 23rd. Westminster, Mar 7th. Nine Elms, Jan 3rd, Feb 8th and Sep 12th - sadly, no breeding here since 2010.

Merlin Falco columbarius

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor.

Eight records this year, one more than last year, but well down on the figures of 19 in 2011 and 41 in 2010. A relatively long-staying bird at Rainham Marshes in November and December was widely seen and much appreciated - this remains the premier site in London for this species. All the remaining birds were seen on single dates, which is very much the most typical London sighting. The bird trapped at Stanwell Moor was a noteworthy record.

Essex: Chafford Hundred, one on May 10th (DGDL). Rainham Marshes, one on Jan 1st (PHt *et al*) and a male on 23rd (SSy, PSt); a fem seen on 14 dates between Nov 6th and Dec 18th (mo).

Middx: East India Dock Basin, a fem/imm on Oct 12th (NT). Stanwell Moor, an imm fem trapped on Sep 23rd (CL, DLa).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, a fem/imm on Sep 9th (CDRH).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, a male on Jan 21st (KMJ).

Hobby Falco subbuteo

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

There were just over 1,000 records this year, which is close to the best year ever; of these 331 were in Herts (32%), 243 in Middx (24%), 198 in Surrey (19%) and 165 in Essex (16%) - a rather more even distribution across the area than has been the case in recent years.

Breeding totals declined slightly again this year, but the overall total of 18 is close to the levels in 2011 (21) and 2012 (24). It is very probable that the true numbers of breeding pairs is far higher than this, but only clear evidence will prove this. Many of the successful pairs reported this year were those breeding at traditional sites, where monitoring might be relatively easy.

The first bird of the year was at Amwell NR on April 14th, rather later than has been

the case recently, then two there on 15th and 16th. This was followed by a steady arrival across the region from 19th, with about another 100 birds being logged by the end of the month. The highest counts of the spring were at Rainham Marshes with 20 on May 19th, 12 on 26th and ten on 16th, then Rye Meads with nine on May 16th.

There were a few impressive autumn gatherings, including eight at Rainham Marshes on August 29th and September 2nd, peaking at nine on 3rd and eight at Richmond Park on September 3rd. There were daily sightings up to October 8th, with later reports being: Pinner Park Farm on October 20th, Maple Lodge NR on 23rd, Beddington Farmlands on 24th and the last of the year, a very late individual at Grove Park on November 1st.

Hobby pairs breeding	Essex	Herts	Middx	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Totals
Proved	3	2	5	0	4	1	15
Probable	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
Total	3	3	6	1	4	1	18
Juvs reared	5	4	9	0	5	2	25

In Lond: Site A, pair bred, as in 2011, producing two young. Giltspur St, one on Jun 18th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Apr 24th. Regent's Park, singles on May 1st, Sep 15th and Oct 8th. Westminster, one on May 9th.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Status: scarce but increasingly regular breeding resident and winter visitor.

In terms of the number of sightings this is the best year ever, although some duplication of sightings and repeated reports from nest-sites does tend to distort the true picture. Nevertheless, this marvellous raptor is very evenly distributed across London now, with Surrey being the pick of the bunch with about 30% of all records.

The highest count this year was an impressive seven birds at Rainham Marshes on January 2nd, where a female was observed killing a young male on December 9th and is a perfect illustration of just how difficult it can be for young birds to not only survive, but also establish themselves in new territories. A young bird that was ringed as a pullus at Charing Cross Hospital in 2013 had relocated to Brighton by September, which just goes to show how quickly and how far young birds can disperse; interestingly a bird that was ringed as a youngster in Sussex in 2007 was seen at Hammersmith in May 2012.

Overall at least 21 pairs were present this year, of which 15 bred successfully raising a magnificent total of 38 juvs, trumping last year's record high of 28. Thanks to DMn for this information. This is an amazing advance considering that they first bred in London only as recently as 1998.

The only species seen to be caught by Peregrines this year were: Starling, 'racing pigeon' and Woodpigeon, however birds were seen chasing Kingfisher (which was nearly caught!), Ring-necked Parakeet and Lapwing.

Peregrine Falcon breeding records 2002-2012

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of pairs present	3	4	4	6	5	13	15	19	22	28	23
No. of successful pairs	2	1	2	5	3	3	4	5	5	9	10
Juvs fledged	1	1	0	3	2	8	9	11	8	23	28



Thanks to the substantial efforts of those volunteers who prepare and monitor Peregrine nest-sites, the number of birds in London continues to rise. (Dave Harris)

Essex: Six pairs bred, of which five reared an impressive 16 youngsters to the flying stage.

Herts: One pair present during the breeding season may have been prospecting nest sites.

Middx: Two pairs bred successfully and raised five young.

Kent: Just two pairs bred, both successfully, and fledged five young.

Surrey: Five pairs were present, of which three pairs reared five chicks.

In Lond: Five pairs were present, but only three of these bred raising a total of seven young.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Status: common, but elusive, winter visitor; scarce breeder.

Estimated numbers in the first and last four months of the year were 131 and 141 birds respectively (in 2012, 136 and 111 respectively). Records came from 89 sites, which is up from last year's 75, and there were 19 breeding pairs reported from six sites this year (just three from two sites last year). One was found inside a hide at Sevenoaks WR, and helped out of the hide. All breeding records are given below (no. of pairs/territories in brackets) and high counts.

Water Rail winter totals of birds

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
First winter	29	33	10	3	24	26	4	129
Second winter	36	32	20	1	15	37	0	141

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, six on Dec 11th. Rainham Marshes (7); 12 on Dec 10th.

Herts: Amwell NR (1); six on Mar 14th: Hilfield Park Res (1). Rye Meads (6); nine on Jan 19th. Seventy Acres Lake, six on Jan 2nd.

Middx: Brent Res, seven on Dec 14th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, two on Jan 8th.

Kent: Footh Cray Meadows, three on Jan 22nd. Sutcliffe Park, three on Dec 22nd. Thames Road Wetland, three on Jan 24th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, five on Dec 15th. London Wetland Centre (1); 11 on Oct 12th and Dec 3rd. Richmond Park (3); seven on Feb 9th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, three on Jan 27th.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Status: scarce migrant.

It was a good year with two records and these were the first since 2009 when there was an exceptional four records. The April record was more unusual as only one of the previous 16 birds has arrived in April (see table below). Indeed this was the first ever April sighting in our part of the Bucks vice-county. The August bird was much seen and photographed.

Spotted Crake arrival dates 1989-2012: 16 records, 16 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	6	4	-	-

Essex: Dagenham Chase, one on Aug 31st (VHF *et al.*)

Bucks: Horton GP, one on Apr 6th (CDRH).

2013 was an excellent year for this migrant raptor, with over 1,000 records of Hobby. This bird was at KGV. (Andrew Moon)



Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Status: very common breeding resident.

There were reports from 280 sites, an increase from 153 sites in 2012. The highest count was 164 at the London Wetland Centre which was down on 179 last year. The count of 153 on a walk along the River Wandle was up from 137 in 2012, but still down on 188 in 2011 and 248 in 2010. At least 326 pairs or broods were reported from 92 sites (up from 88 sites in 2012, 60 sites in 2011 and 43 in 2010). All breeding records of over five pairs or broods are given below (no. in brackets) along with peak counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, 22 on Nov 19th. Ingrebourne Valley, 111 on Jan 13th, Walthamstow Res (8).

Herts: Aldenham CP, 27 on Oct 13th. Amwell NR (16); 30 on Feb 3rd. Cassiobury Park (5). Rickmansworth Aquadrome, 26 on Nov 10th. Rye Meads, 106 on Sep 20th. Tyttenhanger GP, 40 on Aug 18th. Verulamium Park, 66 on Nov 27th.

Middx: Brent Res, 57 on Dec 15th. Horsenden Hill (10); 42 on Jan 1st. Tottenham Marshes (7).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, nine on Feb 12th.

Kent: Crossness, 33 on Nov 13th. Danson Park, 28 on Dec 10th. Darenth Lakes, 43 on Feb 5th. Sevenoaks WR, 42 on Mar 9th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 70 on Feb 8th. Bourne Hall Park, 25 on Dec 15th. Ewell Court Pond, 20 on Nov 10th. Fishpond Wood LNR, 25 on Sep 25th. Holmethorpe SP, 25 on Aug 11th. London Wetland Centre (92 pairs, 36 broods); 164 on Nov 10th. R Wandle: Butter Hill-Morden Hall Park (43); 153 on Dec 28th. Walton Res, 22 on Nov 12th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (15).

In Lond: Battersea Park (6); 23 on Sep 22nd. Buckingham Palace Gdns, 12 on Sep 12th. Holland Park, 13 on Jul 30th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (bred), 36 on Sep 25th. Regent's Park, 49 on Mar 25th. St James's Park, 52 on Sep 12th. Victoria Park, 30 on Sep 7th.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Status: very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

They were reported from 237 sites, up from 144 in 2012. The highest count was only 706 continuing the decline since 2004 mentioned in LBR 2012. At least 496 pairs or broods were reported from 92 sites, which is up from 386 pairs or broods from 94 sites in 2012, but this is probably an underestimate of the true situation for this under-recorded species. All breeding records of over ten pairs, nests or broods, and some Inner London breeding records, are given below (no. of pairs, nests or broods in brackets), as well as peak counts.

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, 225 on Dec 28th. Rainham Marshes (45). Walthamstow Res (23).

Herts: Aldenham CP, 318 on Oct 13th. Amwell NR, 488 on Oct 12th. Bowyer's Water, 262 on Jan 12. Broxbourne GP, 285 on Jan 12th. Bury Lake, 492 on Dec 12th. Hilfield Park Res (11); 241 on Jul 21st. Lynsters Lake, 293 on Nov 16th. North Met Pit, 228 on Jan 15th. Rye Meads, 453 on Oct 13th.

Middx: Brent Res (18); 706 on Sep 22nd (18). Horsenden Hill (25). Wraysbury Res, 295 on Sep 30th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 355 on Jan 25th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, 167 on Jan 13th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (28). London Wetland Centre (76). QE II Res, 268 on Oct 8th. R Wandle: Butter Hill-Morden Hall Park (22). Thorpe Water Park, 667 on Dec 15th. Waddon Ponds (15).

In Lond: Battersea Park (25). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (5); 188 on Dec 30th. Regent's Park (15); 241 on Mar 25th. Victoria Park (6).

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Status: very rare vagrant.

There was just one record this year involving two birds in September. Autumn records like this have been less common than spring records recently. Details are shown in the table below.

Common Crane arrival dates 1990-2012: 17 records, 24 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	1	-	-	5	5	2	1	-	1	1	-	1
No. of birds	1	-	-	6	6	2	1	-	6	1	-	1

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, two adults circled overhead for 30 minutes on Sep 19th (RBr *et al*).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Status: localised breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Overall this was a fairly normal year for Oystercatchers. There were few records in January and from September onwards most records came from the Lower Thames. In January, apart from five at Grays on 9th, all the records were singles at Gallions Reach and Q. Mother Res (the latter ending up dead). Numbers increased in February reaching 15 on 27th at Crossness, with the only sightings away from the R Thames being at Amwell NR, Island Barn Res, Lynster's Farm, Stanstead Innings, Stocker's Lake, Walton Res and Walthamstow Res.

In March there were reports from more sites probably reflecting passage birds moving through the area with a peak of 18 at the Lower Thames and the highest away from there just three at Stocker's Farm on 30th.

The only confirmed breeding was at Amwell NR where a pair raised three young, this was the fifth successive year that breeding has been successful. There were another three pairs which probably bred and seven other pairs were present during the breeding season.

There were more reports in July suggestive of passage but the highest count then was six. Numbers decreased during August and there were then just four records in September: at Rainham Marshes on 3rd and the 12th, Staines Res on 7th and Q. Mother Res on 13th. There were no more records until October 23rd, when one was at Wanstead Flats and two at West Thurrock Marshes. The last of the year were at West Thurrock Marshes on Nov 6th, 18th and 22nd and at Rainham Marshes on 21st.

In Lond: Greenland Pier, one flew upriver on Aug 19th. South Bank, one W on Apr 17th. Westminster, one seen along the river on Apr 22nd.



This Oystercatcher attempted to nest at North Greenwich Ecology Park. (Joe Beale)

Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta

Status: scarce visitor in all months of the year; occasional breeder.

For the first time since 2008 a pair of Avocets nested in the London Area, this time at "Site A", in the Lower Thames area. One was seen incubating from May 31st to June 25th and was thought to have failed but a juvenile was then seen with an adult in early August so they may have been successful. There have only been 11 known breeding attempts in London, the first in 1996 and only three pairs have successfully raised young. Details are shown in the table below.

Avocet breeding records 1996-2008: 11 records

	1996	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of records	1	3	5	1	1
Number successful	1	1	1	0	0

There were only a few records at the start of the year, all along the Lower Thames. From March birds began to appear at other sites. There were several large counts along the Thames which were no doubt birds from the large wintering flock at East Tilbury/Cliffe just outside the London Area. There were no October records and the only records at the end of the year were from the Lower Thames. All records are given below, some summarised in some cases.

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Mar 9th. Dagenham Chase, two on May 5th. Grays Riverside, seven on Feb 3rd. Rainham Marshes, one to six seen occasionally through year, max count 30 on Mar 9th. Walthamstow Res, two on Mar 9th and one on Apr 1st. West Thurrock Marshes, 52 on Dec 12th and 16 on Dec 28th.

Midxx: Ruislip Lido, one on Mar 9th. Staines Res, six on Apr 26th.

Kent: Site A (1). Crossness, three on Feb 20th. Greenhithe, 43 on Mar 9th and 12 on Mar 23rd. Sevenoaks WR, one on Mar 9th.

Stone-curlew gave a moment of pure adrenalin on Wanstead Flats for a lucky patch-worker. The bird sought cover, but was seen in flight again an hour or so later allowing a handful of fast-moving twitchers to connect. (Jonathan Lethbridge)



Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, three on Mar 10th, one or two on Mar 24th and one on May 19th. London Wetland Centre, two on Mar 21st and one on Apr 11th. Walton Res, two on Apr 21st and same pair also seen flying over Island Barn Res.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

There were four records this year, which is the best since 2008 when there were also four records. All were typical spring passage birds, although one stayed for a few days, which is unusual. The table below shows all recent records.

Stone-curlew records 2003-2012: 17 records, 17 birds

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of records	1	0	1	0	4	4	0	3	3	1

Essex: Wanstead Flats, one on Mar 24th (JL).

Middx: Horsenden Hill, one on Apr 6th (AJC). Park Farm/Plumridge Farm, one was flushed at Park Farm on Apr 2nd, then relocated at nearby Plumridge Farm and was still present at the latter site on 3rd and 5th (RMC).

Bucks: Colnbrook Landfill, one on Mar 29th (CDRH).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first spring migrants were on March 9th, singles at Rainham Marshes and Stanwell Moor, which is a fairly typical date. The number of sightings rose gradually, peaking in late March/early April with highest counts being nine at Dartford Marshes and 11 at Staines Res both on March 30th. Another large spring gathering was ten on April 21st, at Q. Mother Res.

Breeding was confirmed at eight sites involving ten pairs. The totals are similar to recent years (details in tables below). One pair was able to hatch two broods, seen in late May and in early August respectively. Unusually, five of the eight breeding records come from industrial brownfield sites; this species most often breeds at reservoirs or wetland nature reserves.

In the tables below confirmed breeding refers to nests or broods; probable breeding indicates presence with display and/or mating seen; and possible breeding refers to the presence of two or more during May and June, but without other signs of breeding.

Little Ringed Plover	Confirmed breeding pairs	Probable breeding pairs	Other pairs present May-Jun	Total
Essex	1	2	0	3
Herts	1	3	4	8
Middx	4	5	1	10
Bucks	0	4	0	4
Kent	3	1	0	4
Surrey	1	1	1	3
Total	10	16	6	32

Little Ringed Plover	Confirmed breeding pairs	Probable breeding pairs	Other pairs present May-Jun	Total
2012	7	4	9	20
2011	11	9	17	37
2010	9	5	13	27
2009	8	7	11	26
2008	9	3	16	28
2007	15	12	15	42
2006	20	7	9	36

Numbers began to drop from the end of July and the highest numbers were seven, recorded on June 24th at Fairlop Waters, July 10th at Amwell NR and July 20th at Brent Res. The last of the year was on August 24th at Staines Res, earlier than typical mid-September dates.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Status: localised breeder and winter visitor; common passage migrant.

As usual records in January and February were mostly at the Lower Thames, involving up to 16 birds, the only exceptions were singles at Amwell NR on February 17th and KG VI Res on 21st. Passage began in March with records away from the Lower Thames at Beddington Farmlands, London Wetland Centre, Q. Mother Res, Rye Meads, Staines Res and Thorpe Water Park and the peak count being 11 at Rainham Marshes on 2nd. Passage peaked in May when there were records from 15 sites and the highest count was 14 at Beddington Farmlands seen there on six dates in May.

Breeding was confirmed at Crossness; elsewhere there were four probable and four possible breeding pairs.

Passage began again from mid-August with the highest counts in August being 25 flying through Walthamstow Res on 24th and 26 at Q. Mother Res on 25th. There were also 15 at Beddington Farmlands on three dates in August and 20 at Rainham Marshes at the end of August. The highest counts of the year were in September and at the Lower Thames, peaking at 44 at Rainham Marshes on 20th. Away from the Thames, there were singles at the West London reservoirs, with two at Q. Mother Res on 12th, as well as singles at Rye Meads, Beddington Farmlands and Walthamstow Res. During October, away from the Lower Thames there were singles at Beddington Farmlands and KGVI Res and two at London Wetland Centre. The only records in November and December were at the Lower Thames with a peak count of 14 at Rainham Marshes on November 7th.

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Status: regular winter visitor to parts of the area, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor elsewhere.

Overall 2013 was a fairly normal year for Golden Plover although peak counts were higher at both ends of the year than they were in 2012. But these peaks were lower than earlier years; between 2006 and 2008 peak flock sizes were in four-figures and even in 2010 and 2011 there were several flocks of between 400 and 900. Most were reported from the north and eastern parts of our area, with over half coming from the Lower Thames: at Crayford, Dartford and Rainham Marshes. In the first four months the largest number of records were in January; but the highest count then was only 180: there was a higher count of 250 in February with the peak being 341 in March. Records tailed off in April, although the peak then was still 268. After April 13th, there were just six records, all singles, with the last at Rainham Marshes on May 14th.

The first returning bird was on August 26th, again at Rainham Marshes and there were only a few records in September, when the highest count was 11. Numbers only reached three figures in November with a peak of 400 and in December the peak was 320.

Essex: Fairlop Waters, 60 on Jan 6th, 80 on Mar 24th, 97 on Dec 8th. Ingrebourne Valley, 54 on Apr 6th, 33 on 10th and 50 on 13th. Netherhouse Farm, 35 on Jan 17th, one on Jan 19th. Rainham Marshes, peak counts of 190 on Jan 9th, 250 on Feb 9th, 341 on Mar 22nd, 268 on Apr 9th, 400 on Nov 5th and 320 on Dec 12th. Raphael Park, 23 on Jan 19th. Walthamstow Marsh, 60 on Dec 19th. Wanstead Flats, singles on Jan 19th and Feb 11th, three on Mar 25th and one on Dec 25th.

Herts: Coursers Farm, 120 on Jan 6th. Marshalswick, 60 on Dec 26th. Rye Meads, 150 on Dec 28th. Theobalds Park Farm, 127 on Jan 17th and 250 on Nov 10th. Waltham Cross, 250 on Nov 7th. Woodoaks Farm, 180 on Mar 24th.

Middx: Plumridge Farm, flocks of 44-147 birds feeding from Apr 4th-8th. Brent Res, fly-overs of 65 (groups of 45 and 20) on Jan 19th and 60 on Dec 15th. KGV Res, 25 over on Jan 19th. Vicarage Farm, 20 on Jan 17th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one over on Mar 25th. Wraysbury, one over on Aug 28th.

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, peak counts of 165 on Jan 9th, 110 on Feb 12th, 158 on Mar 14th, 250 on Nov 30th and 130 on Dec 1st. Swanley Village, 150 on Jan 15th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, peak counts of 70 on Jan 18th, 30 on Mar 30th and eight on Sep 14th. Canons Farm, 11 on Jan 14th, 20 on Jan 15th and 16 on Mar 24th. Royal Mid-Surrey GC, 20 on Jan 18th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, eight flew over in two groups on Jan 20th.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, and scarce winter visitor.

Numbers were lower this year, especially in the autumn. All but two of the records in the first two months were at the Lower Thames marshes, the peak counts being 18 at the end of January and 14 in mid-March. The two records away from the river were both at Beddington Farmlands, where, in a cold spell, one flew over on January 20th, with three over on the next day. Spring passage was from March 28th, with two birds at Walthamstow Res, to June 5th when one was at Rainham Marshes and involved about 55 birds. The highest spring count



Golden Plover. Waders are always at a premium at sites away from the Thames, and three on the deck on Wanstead Flats provided a colourful highlight for local birders. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

was 18 at Rainham Marshes on April 5th and away from the Lower Thames marshes, there were records of singles at London Wetland Centre, Staines Res and QE II Res.

Autumn passage began on August 6th when one was at Rainham Marshes, but the next was not until 24th, when one was at Staines Res, followed on 25th by one at Barking Bay and two at Rainham Marshes. In September there were singles at Rainham Marshes on 3rd and Q. Mother Res on 24th, then four at Rainham Marshes on 27th and one at Dagenham Chase on 29th. The only October record was one at Beddington Farmlands on 12th. There were probably only 13 birds involved in the August to October passage records. There were three November records: one at KGV Res on 13th, four at Rainham Marshes on 21st and one at Crossness on 26th. From December 6th to 18th there were one to two at Crayford Marshes and Rainham Marshes.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Status: widespread breeding species, common winter visitor and passage migrant.

About 115 pairs/territories were reported this year, similar to last year's 116 to 131. Breeding counts were down in Herts from 2012 but up in Surrey; some of the larger territory counts are given below in brackets. There were 18 counts of 1,000 or more birds, all from the Lower Thames marshes, ten of these were in January or February and eight in November or December. High counts, summarised for some sites, are given below.

Essex: 30 pairs/territories. Belhus Woods CP, 900 on Dec 13th. Fairlop Waters, 392 on Dec 8th. Rainham Marshes (27); 2,000 on Jan 2nd & 8th, 1,500 on Feb 23rd & 27th, 900 on Mar 9th, 2,000 on Nov 30th, 1,200 from mid-December on.

Herts: 21 pairs/territories. Amwell NR, 235 on Sep 9th. Rye Meads, 200 on Jan 5th, 302 on Oct 24th, 360 on Nov 30th, 644 on Dec 26th. Tyttenhanger GP (5); 300+ on Jan 1st, 340 on Nov 23rd.

Middx: 17 pairs/territories. Brent Res, 181 over in five flocks on Mar 9th. Hampton FB, 80 on Feb 21st. Kempton NR, 180 on Feb 15th. Staines Moor, 84 on Jan 18th. Staines Res, 95 on Feb 16th, 106 on Nov 26th, 124 on Dec 6th. Stanwell Moor (5); c150 on Jan 5th. Totteridge Valley (4).

Kent: At least seven pairs/territories. Crayford Marshes, 900 on Dec 30th. Crossness, c500 on Jan 6th, 380 on Feb 24th, 350 on Dec 8th. Dartford Marshes, 350 on Jan 3rd, 250 on Feb 20th, 500 on Mar 2nd. Sevenoaks WR, 400 on Jan 13th, 305 on Feb 16th, 255 on Nov 27th, 390 on Dec 11th.

Surrey: 40 pairs/territories. Beddington Farmlands (13); 319 on Jan 9th. Chertsey, 100 over on Jan 5th. Holmethorpe SP, 141 on Sep 1st. London Wetland Centre (16). Rushett Farm (5). Thorpe Water Park (4); 181 on Jan 13th, 151 on Feb 17th. Walton Res, 93 on Sep 23rd.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 18 over on Jan 22nd.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

There were just 24 records this year, which was slightly fewer than the 35 last year. There were ten birds at Rainham Marshes on January 7th, singles at Brent Res on 20th, Crayford Marshes on 22nd and Rainham Marshes on 24th when there were also two at Dartford Marshes. Spring passage began on March 13th when one to two were at the Lower Thames marshes. Passage was light with just six more records of about 17 birds up to May 12th. All but one of these records were at Rainham Marshes, the exception being one at Walthamstow Res on March 28th. The peak count was seven birds at Rainham Marshes on April 3rd.

Autumn records began with an astonishing sight of 77 to 84 birds flying around Staines Res on August 5th. The only larger group in recent years was 90 over Q. Mother Res on August 19th 2007. The rest of the autumn passage began on August 24th when six were at Walthamstow Res, followed by singles at the Lower Thames marshes on 25th, Q. Mother Res on September 7th, Rainham Marshes on 13th and then seven at that site on 15th. The only winter birds after this were one at Belvedere/Erith on November 22nd and five at Swanscombe Marshes on December 7th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in winter.

There were more birds in the first three months of the year than there were last year. But otherwise numbers were similar to last year. From January 15th to February 8th there were six records, with singles at Gallions Reach, Q. Mother Res, QE II Res and Staines Res as well as five at KGV Res on January 23rd and two at KGV I Res on 26th. From March 3rd to



Sanderling. (Andrew Moon)

12th there were just three records of singles. Spring arrivals started with one at Crossness on April 12th but passage was more definite from April 26th to June 2nd during which perhaps 88 birds were recorded. The West London reservoirs had the majority of these records: 11 records at Q. Mother Res with a peak of ten on May 22nd; four records of one to three at Staines Res, with four at KGV Res on 26th; five records at QE II Res, with three birds on 20th and three records at Walton Res, with three birds on 26th. Six birds were at Rainham Marshes on May 14th and 20th. The only record in the Herts sector was at Tyttenhanger GP on May 20th. From June 11th to 15th there were four records, two each at Q. Mother Res and Rainham Marshes, including nine together at Q. Mother Res on 11th. Seventeen birds were involved in these records.

Autumn passage began on July 26th at Q. Mother Res and continued through to September 11th. About 21 birds were involved in this, the majority at Q. Mother Res and Rainham Marshes with a single bird at KGV Res on August 25th. The only records after this were at Q. Mother Res (once again) with singles on November 5th and 20th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Status: scarce passage migrant in variable, but usually small numbers, rare in winter.

There were records from just two sites at the Lower Thames marshes this year. Five or six birds were on spring passage, which is about usual for recent years but only one on autumn passage, which is below recent levels (see table in *LBR* 2012).

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on May 12th (PHt, HV *et al*), two on 14th (AT) then three on Jun 15th (RSPB).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one from Oct 4th-5th (IS, PK, JFt).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Status: rare passage migrant, mostly during September.

As last year, there was just one record but this was on an unusual date. There have now been 17 records since 1990 and this is only the second in July in that time. September to December is the most likely time to see one in London (see table in *LBR* 2012).

Essex: Rainham Marshes, an adult on Aveley Pools from Jul 11th-19th (AT, HV *et al*).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, mainly in autumn.

There were a lot more records this year, with perhaps 24 birds in all, compared to just four last year. Two were during May and June on spring passage and 22 from July 20th to October 18th on autumn passage.

Essex: Barking Bay, seven on Aug 25th (PH). Rainham Marshes, singles on May 14th (AT) and Jun 15th (HV), five on Aug 26th with one until 31st (JA *et al*), another on Sep 4th (MD, HV) and two on 15th (HV, DML *et al*).

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, one on Jul 20th (RFR *et al*).

Middx: Staines Res, one on Sep 27th (RWa).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one from Sep 6th-7th (CDRH).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Oct 5th (PK, JFt) and 18th (IS). Crossness, one on Sep 29th (RHB). Dartford Marshes, one on Sep 2nd (ARL).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

As usual birds were recorded at the Lower Thames marshes in all months of the year, with peak site counts of over 1,000 in winter. Numbers were similar to last year's counts. In other parts of London, they were also recorded in all months of the year but without staying for long. The tables below shows details. Most records were at sites with water, but Canons Farm saw one fly over on April 11th and then four over on August 25th, these were the first records for the site.

Dunlin peak site counts along the Lower Thames

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rainham Marshes	2000	800	400	-	800	1400
Crayford Marshes	1000	-	-	70	500	1400
Crossness	500	350	200	2	810	400
Dartford Marshes	1250	800	-	-	700	520
Barking Bay	-	-	-	-	600	-
West Thurrock Marshes	377	419	-	-	-	-

Dunlin records away from the Lower Thames

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	13	4	18	10	16	5	6	13	8	10	5	2
No. of records	27	7	35	21	41	5	13	28	26	11	6	2
No. of birds	48	7	42	41	134	5	31	76	88	12	31	3

Away from the river, numbers in January and February were low, the peak being eight at Staines Res on January 21st. Spring passage began on March 9th, when they were recorded at seven sites away from the Lower Thames, at Q. Mother Res, Amwell NR, Rye Meads, Stocker's Farm, Beddington Farmlands, London Wetland Centre and Walton Res. Passage peaked in May when records came from 20 sites. Away from the river numbers were generally low in spring although there were flocks of 11 over Beddington Farmlands on May 15th, eight at QE II Res on 12th and eight over Staines Res on May 11th. There were just five records in June; at Staines Res, Walthamstow Res, QE II Res, Q. Mother Res, Tyttenhanger GP and KGV Res.

Autumn passage began on July 9th, peaking in late August. The only high counts away from the river were 30 over Staines Res on August 25th, 15 over KGV I Res on September 7th and 13 over Q. Mother Res on November 20th. There were peak counts of over 100 from November at the Lower Thames marshes.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Status: regular passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

As usual, at the start of the year almost all the records were from the Lower Thames marshes and counts were similar to last year until March 22nd when an amazing flock of 50 touched down briefly at Rainham Marshes before moving on. The last time there was a flock of this size in London was August 1981, which was also at Rainham Marshes. Apart from this flock, the peak was nine on March 27th with the last record being on May 5th.



Curlew Sandpiper is an excellent passage wader in London. (Nick Croft)

Passage birds appeared from July 5th and passage was more extensive from August 12th to September 24th. After this, away from the Lower Thames there were only singles at Beddington Farmlands and Brent Res. In December, perhaps just one bird was involved in ten records at Crayford Marshes or Rainham Marshes.

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Aug 12th. Rainham Marshes, up to four from Jan 2nd to Mar 19th, 50 on Mar 22nd, then single figure counts to May 5th; singles on Jul 20th and from Aug 16th-23rd, 11 on 24th, singles on Sep 4th, Nov 6th & 18th and Dec 15th, 28th & 30th. Walthamstow Res, one on Jul 5th.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Aug 24th. Tyttenhanger GP, three on Aug 18th & 22nd, five on 25th, two on Sep 11th and one on 22nd.

Middx: Brent Res, 20 E on Aug 25th, one from Sep 2nd-14th and one SW on Nov 6th. KGVI Res, one W on Aug 25th. Staines Res, two on Aug 19th and one on 25th. Wormwood Scrubs, one which circled on Jan 16th before going NW was a site record. Wraysbury Res, one on Sep 21st.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, three over on Aug 23rd, then on 25th, 13 flew NE followed by one more an hour later, one on Sep 11th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, singles on Jan 4th, 15th & 31st, Feb 1st, Mar 3rd, Oct 5th and Dec 20th-22nd & 25th-28th. Crossness, singles from Jan 29th-30th and on Feb 3rd, four on Sep 10th, singles on Oct 2nd, 5th & 7th. Dartford Marshes, four on Apr 10th, five on 13th and two on 14th. Deptford Creek, two on Jan 20th. Sevenoaks WR, two on Jan 27th.

Surrey: Addlestone, one on Jul 21st. Beddington Farmlands, three from Aug 23rd-27th with a fourth on 24th & 26th and one from Sep 28th to Oct 2nd. London Wetland Centre, singles on Jan 17th and Aug 25th. Richmond Park, one on Sep 24th. Walton Res, one on Aug 25th.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Status: widespread but elusive winter visitor and passage migrant.

Counts at some sites were particularly high this year with peaks of 11 at Holmethorpe SP (the highest count there since winter 1962/3) and seven at Rainham Marshes and Rye

Meads. This is also reflected in the combined monthly maxima totals below. Counts were higher than in 2012 in all months except February and May. The last bird of spring was on April 26th at Horsenden Hill. The first returning bird was on September 26th at London Wetland Centre. All records are given or summarised below, with the maximum at either end of the year for sites with more than two records.

Jack Snipe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Combined monthly maxima:	45	12	23	19	7	12	15	22

Essex: Abbey Mills, one on Jan 20th. Belhus Woods CP, singles on Apr 5th and Nov 21st. Fairlop Waters, one on Mar 10th. Fishers Green Goosefield, one on Apr 3rd. Gallions Reach, two on Jan 17th. Gunpowder Park, one on Mar 31st. Orient Way, Leyton, three on Jan 22nd and two on 23rd. Rainham Marshes (7:2). Wanstead Flats, one on Sep 29th. West Thurrock Marshes, two on Oct 23rd and one on Nov 6th.

Herts: Amwell NR (1:1). Rye Meads (7:4). Scotsbridge Meadows, one on Jan 12th. Tyttenhanger GP (0:4).

Middx: Brent Res (0:1). Bushy Park, one on Sep 27th. Horsenden Hill (1:0). Kempton NR (1:0). Staines Moor (2:2). Staines Res, one from Jan 19th-23rd. Stanwell Moor (1:2). Ten Acre Wood, one on Sep 29th. Vicarage Farm, one on Nov 19th. Wormwood Scrubs, one on Jan 19th.

Bucks: Colnbrook Landfill, one on Dec 9th. Horton GP, one on Mar 3rd and one on Apr 8th, which was promptly taken by a Sparrowhawk.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Jan 21st. Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park, one on Jan 20th. Littlebrook Lake, one on Jan 27th. Sutcliffe Park, one on Jan 22nd. Swanscombe Marshes, one on Feb 16th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (4:5). Bookham Common, one from Mar 15th-16th. Holmethorpe SP (11:5). Horton CP (1:1). London Wetland Centre (1:2). South Norwood CP, one on Jan 9th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, singles on Jan 7th, 8th & 14th and Apr 14th.

In Lond: Burgess Park, one on Nov 28th. Regent's Park, one on Sep 29th.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, former scarce breeder.

Wintering numbers in the early part of the year were significantly higher than in the previous few years. The maximum count, 100 at Rainham Marshes on January 6th, was the highest since 2010. Peak counts from other sites included at least 70 at Holmethorpe SP on January 21st, 65 at Rye Meads on January 5th and 60 at Ingrebourne Valley on January 9th. Unlike last year when overwintering birds left early, good numbers remained throughout March into early April when they were also joined by passage birds with peaks of 120 at Rainham Marshes on March 19th, 50 at Beddington Farmlands and 51 at Rye Meads on April 2nd.

Eight sites recorded birds during May and, unusually, some even remained into June when Snipe are now rarely seen in London: with single birds at Amwell NR from May 19th to June 7th; at Tyttenhanger GP from June 4th-8th and at Rainham Marshes on June 20th.

Autumn migrants began to arrive from mid-July with the first at London Wetland Centre on July 14th and up to four were seen at four other sites by the end of the month. Small

groups began to build up during August, reaching a high of 16 at Rye Meads on August 31st. Conditions at this site were clearly optimal for Snipe as numbers continued to increase during autumn, with monthly peaks of 118 on September 20th and 235 on October 19th; this was the highest count since 400 at Swanscombe Marshes in 1997. Elsewhere there were at least 70 at London Wetland Centre on September 28th.

By November 1st, numbers at Rye Meads had declined to just six although they recovered to 60 later in the month. The only other sites to record at least 30 birds during the last two months of the year were Amwell NR (39), Brent Res (35), Rainham Marshes (33) and Sevenoaks WR (60).

In Lond: Camley Street Natural Park, one on Nov 15th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Jan 19th-20th and Feb 7th. Regent's Park, singles on Aug 30th and Dec 17th.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Status: localised breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Woodcock were particularly widespread in January, appearing at 51 sites compared to just 16 the previous year; most records were of one or two birds but there were three at Belhus Woods CP on the 16th. They were slightly less numerous in February and March although the peak count increased to four at Canons Farm in both months. There were a few obvious migrants seen in late March and up to mid-April, including remains found at Bankside and Q. Mother Res, both of which may have been killed by Peregrines. The peak count was five at Banstead Wood on April 6th.

The only potential breeding records were roding birds at two sites in Surrey in May: Esher Common and Prince's Coverts.

The first autumn migrant was on October 14th in central London (see below) and was followed by three other records in October. There was a widespread arrival from November 9th onwards with records from 24 sites during the month, all singles apart from two or three at Hilfield Park Res on 15th and three at Ingrebourne Valley on 27th. During December, fewer migrants were recorded as overwintering birds settled down, the highest count was five in Richmond Park on December 9th.

There were 14 birds in Inner London, all singles unless stated.

In Lond: Bankside, remains found on Apr 2nd; Apr 13th. Barbican, found dead on Nov 19th. Chamber St E1, Apr 2nd. Giltspur St EC1, Jan 21st. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Jan 19th-20th. Postman's Park, Nov 11th. Red Lion St WC1, Oct 14th. Regent's Park, Jan 26th; two on Apr 7th; Apr 13th-15th. Union St SE1, found dead on Nov 11th. Victoria Park, Dec 27th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers.

Although 370 birds were present on the Lower Thames in December 2012, there were far fewer in the New Year with a maximum of just 70 in the Rainham/Crayford area on January 14th. Numbers continued to decrease with a high of only 20 in February.

A few migrants appeared away from the Lower Thames during March with singles at Beddington Farmlands, Hall Marsh Scrape, London Wetland Centre and Walthamstow Res. They were more widespread in April and numbers increased on the river with peaks of

71 at Barking Bay on 8th, 84 at Gallions Reach on 10th and 94 at Crossness on 15th; elsewhere two flocks totalling 49 flew over Staines Res on April 26th with 40 of these also seen over Stanwell Moor. There were no further spring migrants after seven at Rainham Marshes on May 6th until June 1st when one was heard over Ealing at midnight and the last was at Amwell on June 3rd.

The first autumn migrant was at Rainham Marshes from June 23rd, increasing to eight on June 28th, 27 on July 4th and 35 on July 13th. Seven flew over Staines Res on July 6th and nine were at Beddington on July 9th. No other site away from the Thames had more than four birds until early August when six flew over Staines Res on 4th and 12 flew over Sidcup on 5th. On September 1st, six were at Rye Meads and at Walton Res, while the highest count on the Thames was 16 at Rainham on September 27th.

Numbers increased along the Lower Thames marshes during November with counts of 205 at Crossness on 14th, 250+ at Erith/Belvedere on 19th and 22nd, and 300+ at Crayford on 30th. The year's highest count was 520 at Rainham on December 15th.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, scarce in winter.

Up to three were present along the Lower Thames marshes during the first three months of the year; elsewhere there were two over Staines Res on January 20th and singles over Amwell NR on January 21st and March 9th.

Spring passage was poor; apart from a flock of 19 at Rye Meads on April 18th and seven at Crayford Marshes/Rainham Marshes on May 6th, there were no other counts exceeding four and just one in west London, at Staines Res on April 21st.

The autumn passage was even worse with a total of about nine birds, all on the Lower Thames between August 1st and September 19th with a peak of three at Crayford Marshes on August 26th. Overall this was the worst year since 2009.

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Status: regular passage migrant.

The first spring migrants were on April 7th with three at Barking Bay and one at Rainham Marshes. Just a few more singles were seen until April 19th when two were at Rainham Marshes; the following day ten birds were recorded across London. The first signs of real movement were on April 21st when there were seven at both Staines Res and Q. Mother Res. Eight were feeding at Crayford/Dartford Marshes on April 25th-26th with seven across the river at Rainham Marshes on 27th and ten there on 28th. Small numbers were scattered around during May with the maximum being 14 at Rainham Marshes on May 6th; away from the river the highest counts were seven at Q. Mother Res on 14th and four at Dagenham Chase on 5th. The last migrant was at Q. Mother Res on May 25th.

After a summer sighting of one at Rainham Marshes on June 15th, autumn migrants began to pass through from July 9th onwards. These were all on the Lower Thames marshes with a peak of seven at Rainham Marshes on July 25th. Staines Res recorded one on July 27th and a flock of 14 flew over the next day. The rest of autumn followed a similar pattern with up to four along the Thames up to August 24th; elsewhere singles flew over Beddington Farmlands on August 2nd and over Staines Res on 4th, two were at Walthamstow Res on August 24th, seven flew over Q. Mother Res on August 25th, one

flew over Rickmansworth on September 5th and three flew over Tottenham Marshes on September 5th.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant.

The highest count on the Lower Thames during the first two months was 31 at Rainham Marshes on January 2nd; away from the river only one or two birds were seen at a handful of sites. Numbers increased at Rainham Marshes during the last few days of March from five on 27th to 50 on 31st; there was another peak in mid-April with 39 on April 12th-13th.

The first notable passage away from the Thames occurred on March 9th when nine flew over Wanstead Flats; no other site had more than two birds during spring on any one day until May 13th when five flew over Amwell NR. In June there were records from Rainham Marshes and Staines Res with a maximum of three at the latter site on 15th.

In autumn no more than two birds were seen together until August 17th when three flew over Staines Res, followed by four at Horton Brook Quarry on August 24th that later flew over Q. Mother Res.

Up to six remained in the Rainham area during October increasing to 15 in November with the year's highest count being 33 on December 8th.

In Lond: Bankside SE1, one on Mar 14th (SFg). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one flew over on Apr 2nd (DTM).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Status: common passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

Eight sites hosted this species during the first three months of the year compared to 13 last year; the highest count was four at Bow Creek on several dates.

Spring migrants were recorded from April 7th onwards with the first decent count being eight at Walthamstow Res on April 19th - surprisingly this was the highest count in spring.

After a couple of birds from June 7th-9th, returning birds began to appear from June 24th onwards. Numbers remained fairly low until July 13th when ten were at Barking Bay. Towards the end of July there was a notable increase with 11 at both Brent Res and Crayford Marshes on 24th; 12 at Q. Mother Res, 11 at KGVI Res and ten at Swanscombe Marshes on 26th; 21+ at KGV Res and 15 at Q. Mary Res on 27th; 15 at Q. Mother Res on 28th; 15 at Crossness on 30th; 30 at KGV Res and 11 at Q. Mother Res on 31st.

The main passage was in August with peak site counts of: 30 at KGV Res on 8th; 18 at Rainham Marshes on 24th; 13 at Crossness on 28th; 13 at Staines Res on 12th; 12 at Amwell NR on 25th; 12 at Gallions Reach on 2nd-3rd; 12 at Walthamstow Res on 11th; 11 at Q. Mary on 25th; and ten at Q. Mother Res on 7th. An unusual record then was one heard calling over Blackheath on August 6th in the evening. Numbers decreased rapidly in September with the only double-figure counts being 14 at Staines Res on 2nd; ten at KGV Res on 7th and a late large flock of 11 at Wraybury Res on 26th.

There was only one count above two in the last three months of the year: three at Crossness on October 5th. They were however more widespread in November and December than at the beginning of the year with records from ten locations.

In Lond: Buckingham Palace Gdns, one on Aug 15th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on

Jul 17th. Regent's Park, singles on five dates in spring and ten in autumn with two on May 15th. Southwark Park, one on Apr 19th. Victoria Tower Gardens, one on Jul 26th and two on Aug 9th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Status: widespread winter visitor and passage migrant (mainly in autumn).

There were records from 49 sites during the first three months of the year, exactly the same as last year. The highest count was ten at Beddington Farmlands on March 9th; there were also four at Dartford Marshes, Island Barn Res, Rye Meads, Q. Mother Res and Walthamstow Res.

Many sites recorded migrants during spring but no more than four birds were seen together. Most birds had passed through by May 11th with just one tardy bird at Danson Park on May 26th. Autumn passage began early as usual with one at Rainham Marshes on June 12th with another at the same site on 16th when there was also one at Brent Res. They were then recorded daily from June 18th. Large numbers began to accumulate at traditional sites from July 10th when the first double-figure count was recorded, with the peak being 20 at Beddington Farmlands on August 6th; elsewhere small numbers were seen widely across the London Area. The only site to hold more than five birds during the last two months of the year was Beddington.

Monthly maxima for the main sites are listed below followed by Inner London records.

Green Sandpiper	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	10	3	-	2	1
HR Rye Meads	4	4	2	2	-	5	14	14	13	8	5	5
SY Beddington Farmlands	4	1	10	4	-	3	16	20	12	6	9	7

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Aug 30th was only the fifth record for this site (GHn).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

At the Lower Thames, the wintering bird from 2012 remained into January and was seen most days until April 28th. What is presumed to be the same bird then started its third successive wintering period at the end of 2013. There was one spring migrant and four records in the autumn involving ten or eleven birds, compared to just one passage migrant last year.

Essex/Kent: Crayford/Dartford/Rainham Marshes, one from 2012 to Jan 24th, from Apr 7th-28th and again from Jun 15th to the end of the year; up to three from Sep 12th-27th (mo).

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, one on Jul 21st (DMcG). Walthamstow Res, four on Aug 28th (TR).

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, two on Nov 10th (SPE).

Survey: Beddington Farmlands, singles on Mar 29th and Aug 27th (RBr *et al*).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Status: regular passage migrant, rare in winter.

An early spring migrant appeared at Beddington Farmlands on March 31st. This was followed by about another 45 between April 13th and June 5th; there were regular sightings on the Thames in the Rainham/Crayford area and most others were on the large

reservoirs. The maximum count was four at Beddington Farmlands on April 27th-28th. Another remained at Rainham Marshes for most of June with two seen there on 15th.

Autumn migrants began to filter through from early July and numbers increased at Rainham Marshes to five on July 9th, nine on 12th and ten on 17th. Away from the river the peak counts were five over Moor Park GC on August 5th and eight at Walthamstow Res on August 8th. There were up to nine still present at Rainham Marshes in the first week of September then numbers increased to a maximum of 12 on September 15th and 19th after which numbers decreased throughout London. Apart from at Crayford Marshes where there were two on October 4th and six the next day, no other site held more than one bird during October. After the last migrant at Beddington Farmlands on October 20th, the only other sighting was an overwintering bird at Crossness.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Status: uncommon passage migrant.

A poor spring passage with just five birds between April 14th and May 18th. These were followed by a series of three June records that could have related to birds heading north or south.

Autumn migration proper began on July 11th and was almost as poor with just eight birds recorded up to the last at Ruislip Lido on September 12th.

Essex: KGV Res, singles on Aug 9th and Sep 11th. Rainham Marshes, singles on May 8th, Jun 14th-16th, Jul 11th and Aug 16th-23rd with two on 24th.

Herts: Amwell NR, singles on May 18th and Jun 22nd. Coopers Green GP, one on Jun 30th. **Middx:** Ruislip Lido, one on Sep 12th.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, singles on Apr 14th and 23rd-24th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Aug 26th. Berrylands/Hogsmill SW, one from Sep 3rd-10th. London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 26th.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, localised breeder.

The highest counts during the winter months were all from the Lower Thames, these are tabulated below. Five at Staines Res on March 9th were probably migrants; elsewhere a few individuals were seen on migration in spring including one by the Round Pond in Kensington Gardens on March 23rd.

Common Redshank		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX	Rainham Marshes	214	407	79	67	12	9	72	-	290	48
KT	Crossness	200	45	55	9	11	2	120	130	250	120
	Dartford Marshes	300	-	20	20	-	-	5	-	30	-

No more than a dozen were seen at any one site in July/August; numbers increased during September with 120 present at Crossness on 27th. In addition to the above, a total of 240 were counted at West Thurrock Marshes on November 22nd and 204 on December 12th.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, 18 pairs bred.

Herts: Amwell NR, two breeding pairs. Tyttenhanger GP, pair probably bred.

Middx: Stanwell Moor, at least one pair bred.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 20 birds pairing up on April 13th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, two pairs bred, hatching broods of four and three young; three young from one of the broods fledged.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Status: passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

One overwintered at Crayford Marshes up to March 2nd and probably the same bird was seen at Rainham Marshes on January 19th; also in January one flew over Brent Res during a snow storm on the 20th. The only other winter records were of up to five at Grays Riverside during February.

The first of spring was at QE II Res on April 26th; this was followed by a strong passage at Staines Res with daily peaks of seven on May 4th and six on May 15th. Apart from another seven at Rainham Marshes on May 21st, the passage was relatively poor elsewhere with high counts of four at Wraysbury Res on May 4th and three at Q. Mother Res on May 20th. A total of 40 were seen during spring with the last two at Rainham Marshes on June 15th.

The first of autumn was on July 8th at Staines Res. From late July onwards one to two birds were irregularly recorded on the west London reservoirs or the Lower Thames marshes. A noticeable influx occurred from mid-August with four at Tyttenhanger GP on 15th, nine at Q. Mother Res on 24th, four at Walthamstow Res on 24th, four at Barking Bay on 25th and an impressive flock of 20 over Q. Mother Res, also on 25th. This was the last day of the main passage and only a few birds were seen after this until the wintering birds returned to the Lower Thames in November where up to ten were seen at both Swanscombe Marshes and West Thurrock Marshes by the end of the year.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Status: rare passage migrant.

This is the first time, perhaps surprisingly, that there have ever been two records in one year in London. Like these records, all the previous 25 records since 1949 have been of single birds, with the possible exception of the 1970 record at Godstone SP which was reported as "one, probably two". The two records this year were typically both in autumn and on the large reservoirs. Sixteen of the previous 25 records have been during August to September, as the table below shows. These were the first records since one at Staines Res in 2005.

Red-necked Phalarope arrival dates 1949-2012: 25 records, 25 or 26 birds

Month	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
No. of records	1	3	1	7	9	4

Essex: KGV Res, juv from Aug 23rd-24th (Hly *et al*).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, adult from 19:10 on Sep 8th (CDRH).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Status: rare visitor, normally in late autumn and winter.

After no records in 2012, there was just one record this year, which was at a typical time.

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, one from Oct 28th-29th (SMY, AEB *et al*).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Status: regular but scarce autumn migrant; rare in other seasons.

It was another good year for this species with three records of three birds, following the four records of six birds in 2012. All records came within the typical autumn period, including a late bird in the R Thames in November. The table below shows records for the previous ten years.

Arctic Skua records 2003-2012: 34 records, 49 birds

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of records	3	3	2	1	4	7	1	1	8	4
No. of birds	4	7	2	1	4	10	1	1	13	6

Essex: Barking Bay, one W on Aug 25th was also seen at Rainham Marshes (PH). Rainham Marshes, singles flew past on Aug 25th (AT *et al*), Oct 30th (SSy, PHT *et al*) and Nov 1st (RS).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Status: rare autumn migrant.

This was London's first ever spring record of this high arctic breeder, an adult complete with full tail streamers present briefly before flying off in heavy rain. This follows the record number of three individuals recorded in 2012; 1985 and 1995 are the only other years when there has been more than one record.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, an adult flew in from the SW and landed briefly early evening on May 24th (CDRH).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Status: regular but scarce migrant.

There were two records of single birds, but both were on the same day. The only other time this has happened was in 1987 following the Great Storm. This is the seventh consecutive year that this species has been recorded and follows the four records of two birds in 2012.

Middx: Staines Res, an adult-type bird lingered briefly on Aug 24th before flying W (REI).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, juv briefly on Aug 24th before flying SSW (CDRH).

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Status: rare autumn vagrant.

There were two accepted records this year, with three or four birds together and then a single two days later. They were also early records; there have only been three previous August records, on 5th, 12th and 30th. Records of two or more birds together are exceptional. The only previous time when more than singles have been reported was following the Great Storm in October 1987 when an unprecedented 64 individuals were recorded.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, three or four on Aug 25th, one of which was seen at Barking Bay (AT *et al*).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, an adult or 1st-summer arrived from the NE at 19:43 on Aug 27th and then continued flying SE without stopping (CDRH).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Status: regular, but scarce, passage migrant and winter visitor.

It was an average year with 48 birds compared to last year's total of 118 birds (and 34 in 2011), with almost all records coming from the first five months of the year. March was the peak month with 19 birds (mostly along the R Thames), including 14 between 23rd and 29th, including one as far upriver as Tower Bridge on 25th and an adult found dead at Holmethorpe SP on 29th. The twelve April birds included two at Amwell NR on 14th and two at Staines Res on 19th. The peak annual total was four birds, at Rainham Marshes and Crayford Marshes on March 11th and Barking Bay and Rainham Marshes on May 19th.

Autumn passage was non-existent, and four birds in December associated with inclement weather included adults at Swanscombe Marshes on 28th and at Q. Mother Res on 30th and a 1st-winter at Hilfield Park Res on 31st.

Kittiwake remains a rare inland find for Londoners. (Jonathan Lethbridge)



Kittiwake monthly records 2013

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of birds	3	2	19	12	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

In Lond: Tower Bridge, one on Mar 25th (BG).

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

Status: very rare vagrant.

After the first records last year, both at Crossness and both 1st-year birds, it is a great surprise that the third record for London should be at Crossness again. It therefore seems very likely that this year's record of an adult is one of last year's birds.

Kent: Crossness, adult summer, from Jul 6th-7th (MFR *et al*).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Status: very common winter visitor and passage migrant, increasing breeder.

Breeding was recorded at 11 sites compared to nine in 2012, including the first records at Maple Lodge NR and Thorpe Water Park. There were 446 breeding pairs, which is the highest ever count. In fact all the regular sites show an increase this year, although the Walthamstow Res colony was deserted after two years of successful breeding. The tables below show the breeding pairs since 2003.

The highest single count was 10,000 at Hilfield Park Res on three dates in January and February. There were 29 counts of over 2,000 birds (nine in 2012), and peak counts along with breeding records are given below. Leucistic birds were recorded at Hilfield Park Res, Holmethorpe SP, QE II Res, Q. Mother Res and Tyttenhanger GP. Colour-ringed birds originating from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Sweden and The Netherlands were recorded.

Black-headed Gull breeding records 2003-2012

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of pairs	50	54	54	46	119	110	184	158	230	194*

*no count at Staines Res

Essex: Rainham Marshes, 3,000 on Dec 17th. Gallions Reach, 2,200 on Jul 14th.

Herts: Amwell NR (40), 14 young. Hilfield Park Res (20); nine counts of over 2,000 peaking at 10,000 on Jan 26th & 29th and Feb 2nd. Maple Lodge NR (1), three young. Rye Meads (89); 3,000 on Oct 26th. Stocker's Lake (31).

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (59). Broadwater Lake, 'bred on rafts as usual'. Home Farm, 4,050 E on Dec 28th. Staines Res (186), 48 young; 5,000 on Aug 11th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 220 on Feb 12th. Wraysbury GP (2), two young.

Kent: Crossness, 1,500 on Jul 13th. Dartford Marshes, 3,700 on Mar 9th. Sevenoaks WR, 3,000 on Mar 23rd.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 6,900 on Jan 1st. London Wetland Centre (10), 15 young. Seething Wells, 3,900 E on Mar 2nd. Thorpe Water Park (8).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 650 on Apr 3rd. Regent's Park, 900 on Feb 18th. Rotherhithe, 300 on Jan 5th.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Status: regular passage migrant, occasional in summer and winter.

It was an average year with 177 birds recorded, following 408 and 349 birds in 2012 and 2011 respectively. Similar to preceding years, spring passage dominated, with over 70% of the annual total being in March and April.

Little Gull monthly records 2013

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of birds	1	0	51	78	6	1	1	19	12	6	2	0

The only record at the start of the year was an adult that flew south over QE II Res on January 19th. March records started on 7th, with four adults at Rainham; records were mainly of singles spread evenly throughout the month, with a peak of eight at Grays Riverside on 23rd.

Seventy-eight birds were recorded in April, with most on the West London reservoirs. The most obvious period of passage was from 7th-12th with 49 birds, although a flock of 17 birds at Island Barn Res and Staines Res on 25th was the monthly maximum. The six May records were of ones and twos at Hilfield Park Res, Island Barn Res and Staines Res, and an adult past Rainham Marshes on 16th was the final record for the month.

June and July records were scarce, comprising first-summerers at Q. Mother Res on June 18th and Crossness on July 3rd.

Autumn passage started on August 24th when two juveniles were at Staines Res, increasing to four the next day. Seven juveniles at Dartford Marshes on August 25th was the peak autumn count, and the twelve September records were mainly of singles except for four at Staines Res on 26th.

October records included three at Staines Res on 12th, and lingering birds at Hilfield Park Res from 11th-12th, Staines Res from 11th-15th and Woolwich Ferry from 5th-12th. The two November records, first-winterers at Holmethorpe SP on 6th and Sevenoaks WR on 27th, concluded the year as there were no birds noted in December. There were also no Inner London records this year.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Status: regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

This species continues to be seen in increasing numbers, and a flock of 43 that flew east over Northfleet on June 26th was far and away the highest total ever seen in the recording area. The previous high was just ten at Staines Res on July 4th 2011. The pattern of occurrences was very similar to 2012, with birds at regular sites and gull roosts in the winter periods, a spring passage of predominantly adult birds followed by juveniles from mid-July onwards.

Spring passage largely occurred from March 25th to April 15th, peaking at four birds at Q. Mother Res on March 28th and Staines Res on April 7th. June was once again the best month for numbers of this species, augmented by the record flock (see above) while other annual high counts were seven at Q. Mother Res on July 17th and Rainham Marshes on July 6th.

The first juvenile of the year at Q. Mother Res on July 14th was one of 25 seen during



This adult-plumaged Bonaparte's Gull was almost certainly one of the previous year's returning first-winter birds, but the evidence is purely circumstantial. It represents the third record for London, and the first adult. (Mick Southcott)

Little Gull often linger on the London reservoirs on passage; this one was on Island Barn. (Dave Harris)

July and August. Records from September to December were typically down on the first winter period, with a peak count of four at Hilfield Park Res on September 25th and an adult that returned to Valentines Park on October 25th for its 14th winter. The table below shows the number of individuals recorded each month and the number of sites they were recorded at.



Mediterranean Gull records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of birds	26	20	31	30	6	53	34	18	14	13	18	16
No. of sites	17	13	16	14	2	7	17	14	9	10	11	14

In Lond: Burgess Park, regular adult again on Nov 25th and Dec 8th (RHB). Rotherhithe, juv on Jul 22nd and an adult on Aug 1st (RHB).

A nice juvenile Mediterranean Gull. (Richard Bonser)



Common Gull *Larus canus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Numbers recorded were slightly greater than in 2012, although this species continues to be under recorded so its true status is difficult to assess with accuracy. There were 34 counts of 100 or more (from 18 sites), compared to 27 counts in 2012 and 46 in 2011. The peak count for the year was 1,000 at Hilfield Park Res on February 24th, with five counts of 500 or more birds (one in 2012 and six in 2011). Typically, larger numbers were associated with cold weather movements at roost sites and midsummer records were scarce, with only five birds seen in June. The first returning adults were noted from July 4th with the first juvenile recorded at Q. Mother Res on July 26th. A bird on the Isle of Dogs in November had been ringed in Norway four months previously. Details of high counts over 100 are given below.

Essex: Harold Hill, 150 on Feb 1st. Wanstead Flats, 400 on Nov 18th.

Herts: Coursers Farm, 110 on Oct 24th. Hilfield Park Res, 1,000 on Feb 24th. Rye Meads, 105 on Oct 26th.

Middx: Bay Farm, 120 on Feb 27th. Brent Res, 220 on Feb 9th. Bushy Park, 100 on Dec 6th. Horsenden Hill, 260 on Dec 21st. Totteridge Valley, 120 on Dec 2nd.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 372 on Jan 19th. Sevenoaks WR, 150 on Jan 19th.

Surrey: Canons Farm, 110 on Feb 21st. Cheverells Farm, 200 on Apr 9th. Holmethorpe SP, 240 on Jan 3rd. Richmond Park, 102 on Dec 15th. Walton Res, 200 on Nov 27th. Wimbledon Common, 300 on Jan 1st.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Status: common, most regular in autumn and winter; breeds in small but increasing numbers.

This species continues to be an under-recorded, increasing breeding species with 52 confirmed breeding pairs (29 in 2012) although the breeding success appeared relatively low with only 55 young seen, with some broods failing to fledge. Inaccessible rooftop locations of colonies inevitably reduce the ability to comprehensively record nesting. Fledged juveniles were commonly seen from July 9th, and ringing recoveries included birds from Sussex, Suffolk and The Netherlands. A leucistic bird was also seen at Dartford Marshes from November 30th to December 5th.

Overall, numbers have increased slightly with five counts of 300+ birds (one in 2012) and 27 counts of 100+ birds (24 in 2012 and 26 in 2011). The highest count was 790 at Rye Meads on August 20th (compared to 2012 and 2011's high counts of 300 and 724 respectively). All confirmed breeding records (no. of pairs/nests in brackets) are shown below, as well as peak counts of over 100 birds.

Essex: Walthamstow Res (17), 37 young noted.

Herts: Amwell NR, 440 on Oct 10th. Essendon (1). Hilfield Park Res (1), 173 on Feb 3rd. Rye Meads, 790 on Aug 20th. Tyttenhanger GP (1). Watford (1).

Middx: Billingsgate Fish Market (5), 11 young. Blackwall Basin (5). Brent Res (4). Heathrow Airport, small numbers presumed to have bred again near BA Cargo building. Horsenden Hill (1+). Stoke Newington Res (1), one young. Tottenham Marshes (5). Wood Wharf, Isle of Dogs (7)

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 369 on Jan 19th. Greenhithe, 120 on Mar 23rd. Sutcliffe Park, 100 on May 19th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 235 March monthly maximum. Island Barn Res, 220 on Jan 7th. Holmethorpe SP, 140 on Jan 19th. Molesey (1), two young.

In Lond: Marylebone W1 (1), one young; first breeding record. Regent's Park (1), three young. Rotherhithe, 22 juvs being fed by adults on Jul 21st suggests local breeding.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Status: common, most regular in winter; breeds in small numbers.

This is the commonest large gull in London, in particular large influxes occur in winter during cold weather. Breeding records and high counts continue to be under-recorded; for example there were no counts from Rainham Marshes of over 100 birds. Roof-top colonies continue in the breeding season, though their inaccessible location makes it difficult to confirm breeding. Therefore reliable year-on-year trends are difficult to discern.

There were 12 counts from only two sites of over 1,000 birds (16 counts from six sites in 2012), with the annual maxima being 15,000 from Beddington Farmlands in January (8,000 in 2012). The number of counts of over 200 birds (28) was a decline from the counts of 43 and 56 in 2012 and 2011 respectively. The leucistic orange-ringed bird 'SH1T' was seen again at Harold Hill/Noak Hill until February 10th, with further leucistic individuals at Q. Mother Res from July 2nd-5th and on September 27th. Listed below are all confirmed breeding records (no. of pairs/nests in brackets), as well as peak counts of over 500 birds.

Essex: Walthamstow Res (8), 16 young noted.

Herts: Amwell NR, 550 on Feb 2nd. Hilfield Park Res, 630 on Nov 9th.

Middx: Heathrow Airport, breeding likely to have taken place again near BA Cargo building.

Horsenden Hill, breeding suspected again on factory roof tops. Southall (3), three young. Staines Res, 500 on May 3rd. Tottenham Marshes (1), two young. Wembley (2), three young. Wood Wharf, Isle of Dogs (5), 11 young.

Kent: Greatness Pit, 900 on Nov 5th.

Surrey: Banstead Wood, 700 on May 4th. Beddington Farmlands, 15,000 January monthly maxima. Chessington (2), two young. Fairfield Recreation Ground, 542 on Apr 10th. Holmethorpe SP, 3,000 on Jan 19th.

In Lond: Camden (1), two young. Church Street W2 (3), four young. Regent's Park (2), six young.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Status: regular late summer and autumn visitor, widely reported in smaller numbers at other times of year.

It was an average year by recent standards, with only two counts of over 50 birds from two sites, compared to six from four sites in 2012. The peak count was 116 from Dartford Marshes on August 6th (2012 and 2011 peaks of 145 and 90). However, counts appear to be sporadic compared to previous years; for example no counts were received from Rainham Marshes in August, the best site historically for this species. Despite this paucity of records, there was still a noticeable mid to late summer peak. It remains rare in Herts,

three at Amwell NR on February 2nd, December 9th and 29th being the highest counts. The first juvenile was seen at KGVI Res on July 14th (eight days earlier than 2012). The following table shows monthly maxima for all sites with high counts.

Yellow-legged Gull monthly maxima

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX	Rainham Marshes	11	2	-	12	1	17	32	-	2	-	12	15
MX	KGVI Res	1	-	-	-	-	5	8	2	-	-	-	-
	Wraysbury Res	-	-	-	-	-	1	20	58	36	-	-	-
BU	Colnbrook	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	14	-	1	-
	Horton	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	20	21	-	-	-
	Q. Mother Res	3	2	1	1	5	8	20	30	-	-	3	4
KT	Crayford/Dartford	13	8	5	1	1	5	20	116	12	4	3	12
	Greenhithe	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
SY	Beddington Farmlands	3	3	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	2

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, four birds: adult on Jan 2nd, 1st-winter on Jan 24th, 2nd-summer on Apr 5th and adult on Apr 11th. Limehouse Basin, 3rd-winter on Sep 15th. Regent's Park, four birds: singles on Jan 27th, Mar 31st, Aug 20th and Sep 15th. Rotherhithe, six birds: 2nd-winter from Jan 20th to Feb 10th, 1st-summer on May 6th, 2nd-summer on May 20th-30th, 2nd-summer on Jul 7th, adult on Jul 20th and 3rd-summer on Aug 1st.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Status: scarce visitor mainly in winter.

London continues to be one of the best places to locate this species, although it still remains a good find for those aware of its identification features. The first winter period (January to April) recorded the most sightings, with most sightings being either first-winters (the most distinctive age) or adults. A Polish colour-ringed first-winter was seen at Beddington Farmlands and Island Barn Res in September. The following provides an overview of records, though due to the mobile nature of London's gulls, it is difficult to be sure of the exact numbers, a conservative estimate would put this year's total at 56 individuals (75 in 2012 and 45 in 2011). Beddington Farmlands, Crayford/Dartford Marshes and Rainham Marshes continue to dominate the records.

Essex: Gallions Reach, adult on Dec 29th. Rainham Marshes, total of 16 seen with nine from January to April, five in June to July and two in December with a peak count of three on Feb 22nd-23rd, Apr 12th and Jul 6th; there were no sightings in May and September to November.

Herts: Amwell NR, five: 1st-winter from Jan 14th to Apr 1st, 2nd-summer on Aug 18th, two 1st-winters on Oct 18th (one until Oct 29th) and 1st-winter from Dec 2nd-4th.

Middx: KGVI Res, 4th-winter on Nov 9th. Q. Mary Res, adult on Jul 27th (presumed returning bird). Wraysbury Res, adult on Aug 18th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, six: adult on Mar 1st & 3rd, 3rd-winter on Mar 25th and Apr 4th, 1st-summer on Jul 16th, 2nd-winter on Nov 16th, adult on Nov 25th and 1st-winter on Dec 22nd.

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, seven: four from January to March and three from November to December. Crossness, adult on Nov 10th. Greenhithe, 2nd-winter on Mar 24th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 11: three from January to February, eight from September to December with peaks of two on Dec 17th & 30th. Island Barn Res, Polish-ringed 1st-winter on Sep 28th and 1st-winter on Dec 17th & 20th. QE II Res, 1st-winter on Feb 5th. Walton Res, adult on Oct 13th & 24th.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Status: scarce winter visitor, more regular in cold weather.

It was a relatively lean year for this species, with perhaps just six individuals recorded. This is in contrast to the record influx of at least 31 birds in 2012, and a lower total than the eleven recorded in 2011. All records fell within the expected winter periods, correlating with the national trend; this species continues to be recorded in London more than Glaucous Gull in recent years.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, adult on Jan 31st (JCL).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, juv on Jan 13th, Feb 16th & 18th, adult erratically from Mar 5th-13th and juv on Dec 1st (CDRH *et al*).

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, adult on Feb 8th and Mar 12th (KMJ).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, juv on Jan 10th (PRA, RD) and another juv from Dec 9th-31st (FP *et al*).

SUB-SPECIES: Kumlien's Gull *L. g. kumlieni*

One bird showed characteristics consistent with the Greenland and Nearctic race. This is the sixth record for London, and follows the two individuals seen in 2012.

Surrey: QE II Res, juv on Dec 25th (DMH).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Status: scarce winter visitor in varying numbers, more regular in cold weather.

A comparable showing to the previous two years with three birds (three in 2012 and two in 2011), consolidating this species' recent status of being the scarcer of the two 'white-winged gulls'. For a second consecutive year there were no records from Rainham Marshes.

Essex: Gallions Reach, 2nd-winter on Jan 13th (GAJ).

Herts: Amwell NR, juv on Jan 29th (SW).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, juv intermittently from Jan 9th-19th (PRA *et al*).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Status: fairly common winter visitor in small numbers, less common at other seasons; has bred recently.

It was an average year for this species, with five counts of over 50 birds (five in 2012 and 17 in 2011), the highest being 170 at Amwell NR on December 26th (2012 and 2011 maximums of 85 and 140). The species bred successfully for the first time since 2010, with a single chick raised on a warehouse roof at Wood Wharf on the Isle of Dogs; pairs were also noted mating at Brent Res and Greenhithe in April.

The species continues to be under-recorded, particularly along the R Thames where

peak counts of 35 and 36 from Kent and Essex respectively do not reflect the species' true status as a relatively common winter visitor. Listed below are high counts for sites within each sector.

Essex: Leyton Jubilee Park, 25 on Nov 24th. Rainham Marshes, 36 on Nov 8th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 170 on Dec 26th.

Middx: Staines Res, 26 on Nov 10th. Wood Wharf, Isle of Dogs (1), a pair successfully reared a single chick.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 56 on Dec 26th.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 35 on Aug 25th. Sevenoaks WR, 29 on Jan 13th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 25 on Dec 1st. Holmethorpe SP, 60 on Jan 28th. Island Barn Res, 33 on Jan 5th. Walton Res, 45 on Dec 8th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, 12 on May 6th. Rotherhithe, five on Jul 20th.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Status: uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant.

A spring total of probably 11 birds and just one in the autumn, making this the worst year since 2006 (when there were five in spring and three in autumn). The first arrival of the spring came a day earlier than in 2012, at Staines Res on April 17th. Aside from one at Q. Mother Res on 28th, Staines Res also boasted all the other records to the end of April, with two on 25th followed by one on 26th and 28th. A light trickle continued to pass through in May, all being singles; these were at Staines Res on 4th, 9th and 13th as well as at KGV Res on 5th and at Amwell NR on 8th. Autumn passage tends to be relatively weak but it was almost non-existent this year, Rainham Marshes hosting the sole returning bird on August 25th.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, with numbers varying annually with weather conditions and breeding success on the continent.

April 25th saw spring passage begin with the arrival of 11 at Staines Res and two at Nazeing Meads. Six were at Dartford Marshes the next day, followed by one at Stocker's Farm on 27th. The final record of the month involved three at Wraysbury Res on 28th. After that all the records were at Staines Res, with two there on May 6th, followed by singles on 15th and 18th and finally two on 25th.

Autumn passage was almost entirely restricted to August and began on 7th, with a juvenile at Staines Res. Four circled the lake at Beddington Farmlands on 17th, a juvenile was at Staines Res on 19th and a single at Walthamstow Res on 21st; a day later, two juvs were seen at both Banbury Res and Walthamstow Res while Staines Res had five. On 23rd, three were at KGV Res and a juvenile visited Q. Mother Res. Movement reached a peak over the next two days; on the 24th there were 45 at Grays Riverside, 18 over Amwell NR, eight at Rainham Marshes, seven at Gallions Reach and four at Staines Res along with lone birds at Crossness and Barking Bay. On 25th, 30 were at Rainham Marshes, ten at Barking Bay, nine at Greenhithe, Gallions Reach and Dartford Marshes each had eight, six were at Q. Mary Res, five were at Crossness, Staines Res had two and singles appeared at London Wetland Centre and Waterloo Bridge. After this big push, there were just four

at Rainham Marshes/Crayford Marshes on 26th. There were no records in September but a very late juvenile at Staines Res on October 3rd. The last October record was in 2010.

In Lond: Lambeth, one flew S past Waterloo Bridge on Aug 25th.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Status: rare vagrant.

With this year's single record, 2013 became the sixth successive year of occurrence for this species. Indeed, it is tempting to suggest that it looks set to become an annual feature in the recording area. This year's juvenile occurred at a typical date as 12 of the previous 19 records have been in August or September. Two-thirds of these records have been juveniles like this one, rather than adults.

Middx: Q. Mary Res, juv present 11:00-12:30 on Aug 25th (REI).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Status: uncommon passage migrant, often in small flocks.

There were probably about 25 birds in the spring passage (from March 11th to May 9th) and 29 in the autumn passage (from June 25th to October 5th). One which flew up the River Thames at Crayford Marshes on March 11th was particularly early, and appears to be the earliest ever record for London. It was not followed until one flew east through Q. Mother Res on March 25th. Spring passage truly started in early April: Rainham Marshes had one on 7th, followed on 10th by one at Gallions Reach, then on 12th one flew west over Beddington Farmlands and two were at Amwell NR and four at Staines Res. April 13th saw three at Rainham Marshes, one at Q. Mother Res and one at QE II Res and Walton Res, followed the next day by lone birds at Staines Res and Amwell NR. The last record of the month was of one at Q. Mother Res on 27th. Six which flew west through Staines Res on May 9th were the last birds of the spring.

Autumn movement extended from late June till early October. The first was a lone bird at Rainham Marshes on June 25th followed by four July records: singles at Crossness on 13th and Rainham Marshes on 16th followed by two at Q. Mother Res on 18th and one at William Girling Res on 31st. One at Gallions Reach on August 4th was followed by one at Rainham Marshes on 17th and two there on 24th and 25th. Two were at Hilfield Park Res on 26th, when another was off the pier at Westminster. September was another good month with two at Staines Res on 9th, one at Rainham Marshes on 11th and singles at London Wetland Centre on 20th, 27th and 28th; then four flew south over Walthamstow Res on 29th before turning back north. The last records of the year came on October 5th when QE II Res and Crossness each had two birds.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Three days earlier than 2012, the first spring bird arrived at Greenhithe on March 23rd. This is the earliest since 2005 (also March 23rd.) Despite the early first arrival, spring passage was at a low ebb overall in comparison to the previous year. There were few high counts throughout April, the most significant being 24 at Gallions Reach on 14th and 17 there on 20th as well as 20 at Rainham Marshes on 27th. Numbers swelled come May;



Common Tern. (Mick Southcott)

KGV Res had 54 on 9th, 50 were at Walthamstow Res on 22nd, 45 were at Hilfield Park Res on 15th, Staines Res had 44 on 8th and 40 were at KGV Res and Crossness on 11th and 19th respectively. A further 14 counts of 20 or more were received for May.

The breeding results were rather strange. About 136 pairs nested which was up on the 127 we mentioned last year. Numbers were lower this year at some of the larger 2012 sites but smaller sites mostly increased their numbers and there were seven new sites where we have not recorded breeding recently. All breeding records (with no. of pairs/nests in brackets), and some Inner London records are given below.

Again, numbers began to build up over the latter half of August, the first three-figure totals coming on 24th, with 110 at Crossness and 100 at Barking Bay and Gallions Reach logged 101 on 25th. Numbers were less impressive in September, the highest being 29 at Rainham Marshes on 11th. The final bird of the main autumn movement was at Victoria Tower Gardens on October 10th, before a straggler at Gallions Reach on November 3rd. This appears to be the latest ever Common Tern record for London, the previous record being October 30th in 2011.

Essex: Walthamstow Res (15), seven broods but just ten young.

Herts: Amwell NR (24), at least nine young. Coopers Green GP (1). Gobions Wood (1), pair using raft on lake. Hilfield Park Res (15), six broods, two young. Maple Lodge NR (6), four broods, at least seven young fledged. Rye Meads (6), ten young fledged. Stocker's Lake (2), one young.

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (17). Blackwall Basin (8), 11+ young. Brent Res (3-4), all failed. East India Dock Basin (7), four pairs fledged eight young. Isle of Dogs (1+), two young. Millwall Docks (1). Ruislip Lido (2). Staines Res (1-2), two young.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res (1), two young fledged. Thorney CP (1+), at least eight young.

Kent: Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park (4), at least three clutches laid.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre (7), seven young fledged from four broods. Richmond Park (2), four young from two broods. Wimbledon Park, pair present on raft mid-April to mid-May. Thorpe Park (2), three young. Walton Res (6-7), 12 young.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, two on Apr 23rd, adult on May 27th, adult feeding juv on Jun 5th, two on Jun 27th. Regent's Park, two from May 1st-16th and a single on 17th. Shadwell Basin (1), two young. Victoria Tower Gardens, juv over R Thames on Oct 10th.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Status: rare passage migrant.

It was a good year for this elegant and highly-prized tern, with three records: two of single birds and one of two birds, all at West London reservoirs. The first record was two together at Q. Mother Res on May 22nd. This was followed by one at Staines Res on June 10th, seen later at Q. Mother Res, and then the last at QE II Res on July 2nd. Since the first record in 1953, most records have been in May and only two of the previous 25 records were in June. Records are usually single birds but there were two together as recently as 2011.

Roseate Tern arrival dates 1953-2012: 25 records, 35 birds

Month	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
No. of records	14	2	4	2	3
No. of birds	22	2	6	2	3

Middx: Staines Res, one over south basin 09:50-10:53 on Jun 10th when it flew low northwest (KLP).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, two lingered 11:00-11:22 on May 22nd then flew northeast (CDRH); adult circled yacht club at 12:15 on Jun 10th before it departed northeast (CDRH) (same as Staines Res).

Surrey: QE II Res, adult present 06:19-06:25 on Jul 2nd when it flew high northwest (DMH).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, often in small flocks with numbers varying annually.

The first was at Island Barn Res on April 10th, the same date as last year. There were then daily records until May 4th. Numbers remained relatively low over the spring but birds were seen at a range of sites during April and May, with birds at Wimbledon Park,

Holmethorpe SPs and Raphael Park notable among the usual reports from sites along the R Thames and the reservoirs. The only double-figure counts came from Staines Res, with 40 there on April 16th, 11 on April 19th and 20 on May 2nd. Three at Staines Res on May 31st finalised the spring rush but stragglers were seen at Horton GP on June 12th (a 2nd-summer), Walthamstow Res on June 15th and Cheshunt GPs on June 29th.

One over Cassiobury Park on July 31st signified the start of the return migration. Subsequent reports involved singles at Staines Res, QE II Res, Creekmouth, Crossness and Gallions Reach until August 24th when 43 were at Rainham Marshes and Gallions Reach, Rye Meads and Grays Riverside had 35, 18 and 12 respectively. Rainham Marshes boasted the highest count of the year, 48 on August 25th, when Greenhithe had 37. The only September records were six at Rainham Marshes on 6th and singles at QE II Res on 21st, Walton Res on 22nd and Beddington Farmlands on 29th. Late juvs were at Q. Mother Res on October 2nd and Q. Mary Res on October 12th.

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor, subject to occasional winter influxes.

The two records this year are one fewer than last year and now make six consecutive years of records for this less than annual visitor. Both were in October and could have been one bird seen over two days.

Essex: Gallions Reach, one flew upriver on Oct 4th (GAJ).

Essex/Kent: One seen on Oct 5th both from the Essex side of the R Thames at Barking Bay and Gallions Reach and from the Kent side at Crossness and Woolwich Ferry (VHF, PH, JKA, NT).

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Status: abundant feral resident.

Although the 2013 Breeding Bird Survey states that the Feral Pigeon is the most abundant species in London, its numbers have fallen by 23% between 1994 and 2012. Records were received from 144 sites, which is up on last year's 116 sites because of many more records from Surrey. Confirmed or probable breeding was reported from only ten sites, which is a return to serious under-recording after last year's welcome report of breeding from 33 sites. Peak counts for sites with high counts and for all Inner London sites are given below.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, 135 on Jul 20th. Walthamstow, 140 on Jun 7th.

Herts: Cheshunt GPs, 100 on Jan 12th. Coursers Farm, 100 on Jan 20th. Hertford, 100 on Dec 18th. Verulamium Park, 120 on Jan 16th. Watford, 200 on May 15th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, 100 on Mar 29th. Home and Bushy Park, 156 on Aug 14th. Southall, 125 on Jun 15th.

Kent: Greenwich Park, 163 on Sep 16th.

Surrey: Croham Hurst, 204 on Oct 15th. Hogsmill SW, 150 on Oct 12th. King George's Park, 175 on Sep 17th. Portsmouth Rd FB, 154 on Mar 30th. Seething Wells, 196 on Aug 10th. South Norwood Lake, c160 throughout the year.

In Lond: Buckingham Palace Gdns, 13 on Aug 15th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 392 on Apr 25th, just around Serpentine. St James's Park, 250 on Feb 13th. Victoria Park, ten on May 4th.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant.

The number of breeding pairs was 153, which is slightly, but probably not significantly, down on the last two years (164 in 2012 and 160 in 2011). Pairs in Herts were well down in number on the past two years but those in Middx were well up. Unusually, no pairs were recorded in Inner London. There were fewer than ten reports of confirmed breeding reflecting the difficulty of establishing this.

Stock Dove sites and pairs

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond
Sites	33	65	49	1	32	64	4
Sites with pairs	6	10	19	0	8	14	0
No. of pairs	9	12	51	0	33	48	0

The highest counts recorded at a site were 400 at Brook Farm and at Rainham Marshes, both on November 10th. As the birds at the former site were flying over in a southerly direction and as Rainham Marshes are south of Brook Farm, these two records may well be of the same birds.

Peak counts for sites with 50 or more birds, sites with five or more pairs (no. in brackets) and all Inner London records are listed below.

Essex: Brook Farm, 400 on Nov 10th. Crumps Farm, 150 on Feb 20th. Ingrebourne Valley, 92 on Jan 13th. Orsett Fen, 108 on Mar 14th. Rainham Marshes, 400 on Nov 10th.

Herts: Lynsters Farm, 60 on Jan 26th. Maple Cross, 200 on Feb 13th. Rye Meads, 60 on Nov 1st. Shenley, 120 on Jan 8th.

Middx: Brent Res, 59 on Sep 29th. Harmondsworth, 89 on May 2nd. Home Park (9). Horsenden Hill (11). Park Farm, Enfield, 50 on Oct 5th. Queen's Wood (11).

Kent: Foots Cray Meadows (10). Greenwich Park (11).

Surrey: Banstead Wood (7). Beddington Farmlands, 300 over on Dec 29th. Canons Farm, 132 on Mar 22nd. Epsom Downs, 100 on Sep 20th. Motspur Park, 50 on Nov 20th. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (25). Worcester Park, 130 on Oct 28th & 29th.

In Lond: Buckingham Palace Gdns, two on Sep 13th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, recorded in most months, with a peak of 15 on April 7th. Regent's Park, five on Mar 1st, one on Mar 25th, nine on Nov 13th, two on Dec 15th. Victoria Park, one on Jan 5th, 11 on Mar 2nd, five on May 4th, four on Jul 6th, two on Sep 7th.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Status: abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Wood pigeons were the second most abundant species recorded on the Breeding Bird Survey in London this year, which also reports a 55% increase since 1994 (42% nationally). Autumn passage, mainly south/south-west in direction, was noticeable from October 29th to November 16th and exceptionally high. On October 30th there were 17,000 over Regent's Park, 15,700 over London Wetland Centre and five other counts over 2,000; on November 3rd, there were 15,100 over Brent Res, 14,900 over London Wetland Centre and six other counts of 2,000 or more; on 6th an astonishing 52,300 went over Rainham Marshes; then on 8th, there were 50,800 over Swanscombe Marshes and five other counts over 2,000. The

last year to have such passage was in 2006, but the highest count then was 16,700 - a third of this year's peak. Sites where more than 10,000 birds were counted are listed below.

Woodpigeon - highest autumn counts

Site	Total	No. of counts	Highest count (date)
Rainham Marshes (EX)	159,997	11	52,300 (Nov 6th)
Swanscombe Marshes (KT)	50,800	1	50,800 (Nov 8th)
Brent Res (MX)	49,262	8	15,100 (Nov 3rd)
Regent's Park (IL)	43,750	6	17,000 (Oct 30th)
London Wetland Centre (SY)	30,600	2	15,700 (Oct 30th)
Mill Wood (EX)	21,000	1	21,000 (Nov 8th)
Brook Farm (EX)	19,576	3	10,400 (Nov 10th)
Richmond Park (SY)	18,300	4	7,800 (Oct 30th)
Chafford Hundred (EX)	17,296	3	6,914 (Nov 13th)

Winter flocks of over 1,000 were reported from five sites: 1,500 at Redwell Wood Farm on January 15th, 1,000 at Park Farm, Enfield on February 25th, 1,058 at Orsett Fen on March 14th, 5,550 at Richmond Park on December 2nd and 1,100 at Moorhouse on December 8th. There was also a feeding flock of 800 at Canon's Farm on September 14th and some high counts at the end of December, with 3,541 over Home Park, and 2,000 over Q. Mother Res.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Status: common breeding resident, scarce in central London.

A better year for this species than last year in that the declines reported then either did not continue or reversed. There was no change in population year on year according to the Breeding Bird Survey (nor has there been between 1995 and 2013 in London); the number of sites at which the species was recorded increased in all sectors except Herts; and the number of sites that had records of 25 or more birds was back to 11, as it had been in 2011, whereas it was only five in 2012. Moreover, the species was reported from 81% of gardens in the annual survey carried out by the Croydon RSPB Group, which is slightly up on last year even if still well down on the 94% of 1995. There must be many more breeding pairs than reported, so more reports would be welcome in future. Below we list sites where breeding was reported, some of the largest counts, other records of interest and a summary of records for Inner London, with breeding counts in brackets.

Essex: Reported from 18 sites. Hangman's Wood, 42 on Nov 2nd. Mar Dyke Valley (10). Mount End (2). Nazeing (1). North Ockendon (1). Rainham Marshes, 36 on Jan 19th. Warren Gorge (5).

Herts: Reported from 61 sites. Beech Farm GP (2). Hatfield Aerodrome (4). Loudwater (1). Maple Cross (3). Maple Lodge NR (1). Woodoaks Farm, 94 on Sep 17th.

Middx: Reported from 25 sites. Boxer's Lake, Enfield (1). Broomfield Park (10). Chase Road, N14 (1). Dalrymple Close, N14 (1). Enfield Playing Fields (2). Home Park (1). Horsenden Hill (4). Lavender Gdns (1). Oakmere Park (1). Oakwood Park (2). Parkside Farm (1). Pymmes Park (1). Rectory Farm, 60 on Dec 15th. Strayfield Road (1). Trent Park (1). Vicarage Farm (1).

Kent: Reported from 22 sites. Barnehurst, 27 on Mar 9th. Blackheath Vanbrugh Park (1). Greenwich Park (1).

Surrey: Reported from 39 sites. Ashted Common (5). Canons Farm, 26 on Jan 15th. Dulwich (1). Hogsmill SW, 32 on Oct 12th. Kingston-on-Thames, 30 on Apr 30th. London Wetland Centre and adjacent houses (10). Berrylands, 32 on Sep 10th. Molesey Heath (2). Seething Wells, 27 on Jul 20th. South Norwood Lake (2). Surbiton (27). Walton-on-Thames (1). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (4).

In Lond: One or two birds recorded on one or two occasions in Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Paddington Green, Regent's Park, Victoria Park and Westminster.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Status: localised and now scarce summer breeding visitor and scarce passage migrant.

The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 13% decline in England from 2012-2013 continuing the precipitous 88% decline from 1993-2012. This decline is reflected in the fact that there was just one territorial bird reported to us this year. This was at Swanley Park in Kent, where one sang from April 21st to May 27th but breeding was not confirmed. There were probably 16 birds involved in the spring passage and just three in the autumn passage.

The first, on April 21st, was at Swanley Park. The next was at Gallions Reach on 27th, followed by one at Crayford Marshes on 29th. In May, on 2nd there was one at Amwell NR and also one over Crossness. On 5th, one was at Amwell NR again (perhaps the same bird?), followed the next day by one at Regent's Park, with a second bird there going south-west on 7th. After singles east at Hogsmill OS on 8th and north-east over Alexandra Park on 9th, there were no more records for nine days. On 18th, singles were at Rye Meads and Wormwood Scrubs. The last in May was one at Northfleet on 31st. There were four June records: at Walthamstow Marshes on 3rd, Wanstead Park on 8th, Lullington Park on 9th and one north at London Colney on 30th. The only returning birds were singles at Radlett on July 31st, then one north-west at Q. Mother Res on August 25th as well as one south at Brent Res on the same date.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Status: naturalised breeding resident, increasing in range and numbers.

There were reports from 237 sites this year, the highest number ever, although over 200 sites were recorded in 2007, 2009 and 2011. The number of sites reporting them increased in Middx (from 17 to 46) and in Surrey (12 to 67) but decreased in Herts (from 93 to 56). The regular RSPB Croydon garden survey again showed almost complete saturation, with 96% (75) of the surveyed gardens reporting them. The Breeding Bird Survey recorded a 10% decrease in Ring-necked Parakeets in the past year in London following an increase in the previous year.

There were only 22 reports of breeding or probable breeding, but this is clearly a serious underestimate, not least because observers at some very well-populated sites either simply estimate the number of territories (eg c25 on Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath) or only state that the species breeds there (eg Richmond Park).

Peak roost counts are given below, although the first two are minima inferred from flocks observed nearby after leaving their roosts. Only Mitcham Common occurs on both

this year's and last year's list, more likely due to a lack of reporting than to relocation of roosts. Sites with peak counts of 50 or more that are not roosts are listed by county; many of these are of sub-roosts or flocks on route to roosts. Unusually, there are two records of large flocks feeding in fields.

Ring-necked Parakeet peak roost counts 2013		
EX	Waterworks NR	650
SY	Berrylands SF	2750
	Mitcham Common	4000

Essex: reported from 37 sites. Dagenham Chase, 65 on Nov 17th. Leyton Jubilee Park, 650 on Dec 14th from Waterworks NR roost. Rainham Marshes, 160 on Dec 19th. South Woodford, 68 on Nov 12th. Walthamstow, 150 SW on Nov 14th. Walthamstow Res, 105 NW on Dec 3rd, probably from Waterworks NR roost. Waterworks NR, 120 at roost on Jan 9th.

Herts: reported from 56 sites.

Middx: reported from 46 sites. Bushey Park, 790 E/NE on Oct 30th. Grovelands Park, 50 on Dec 20th. Horsenden Hill, 120 on Sep 10th. Osterley Park, c500 feeding in field on May 9th. Tottenham Marshes, c90 presumed to be dispersing from Waterworks NR roost on Sep 26th. West Drayton, c100 over on Nov 5th. Wormwood Scrubs, over 1,000 in January and December on several dates.

Bucks: reported from two sites.

Kent: reported from 19 sites. Burstard Wood, 202 flew out to roost on Jan 18th. Danson Park, 301 flew out to roost on Mar 18th. Dartford Marshes, 135 ground feeding on flooded field on Apr 20th. Foots Cray Meadows, c75 on Dec 25th. Lamorbey Park, 437 flew out to roost on Jan 14th. Sevenoaks WR, 90 flying to roost on Nov 7th.

Surrey: reported from 67 sites. Berrylands, 80 over on Jul 21st. Hogsmill SW, 2,750 over on Sep 21st from roost at Berrylands SF. Holmethorpe SP, c250 over at dusk on Jan 1st. Latchmere Recreation Ground, 515 over on Oct 27th. Long Ditton, 74 on May 5th. Molesey Heath, c400 on Feb 8th flying to roost at Hersham GP. New Malden, 141 over on Aug 17th. Norbiton, 1,100 NE on Sep 19th from Berrylands SF roost. Queens Promenade, 92 over on Apr 28th. Seething Wells, 83 over on Dec 15th. Walton-on-Thames, 54 on Apr 24th. Thorpe Water Park, 190 on Nov 7th. Waddon Ponds, 120 W on Jan 13th.

In Lond: reported from 10 sites. Battersea Park, 70 on Jan 15th.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

There were reports from a total of 102 sites this year (118 in 2012, 139 in 2011, 129 in 2010, 96 in 2009), with 82 in spring, 30 in summer (June) and 15 in autumn, as defined in the table below. It is unclear whether the continuing pattern of fewer reports from sites in Kent and Surrey than in Herts and Essex is genuine or the result of poorer coverage. The Breeding Bird Survey shows cuckoo numbers to have fallen by 63% in south-east England between 1995 and 2012, with a 17% fall in England in the past year.

The first of the year was on the very early date of March 31st. This seems to be the earliest record since 1983 when one was seen on March 27th. The next was on April 12th after which records were just about daily until the end of June. Two Inner London sites

recorded cuckoos: Holland Park on April 15th and Regent's Park on May 15th. Most reports were of single birds but there were also two records of five or more birds: five on June 16th at Rainham Marshes and six on June 3rd at Fishers Green Island.

Breeding was confirmed at Rye Meads and probable breeding was reported from Beech Farm GP and Hatfield Aerodrome. Recently fledged or juvenile cuckoos, indicating confirmed breeding although not necessarily in London, were recorded at Amwell NR, Beddington Farmlands, Bushy Park, Rainham Marshes, Totteridge Valley, Tyttenhanger GP, Staines Moor and Walthamstow Res.

Sites where Cuckoo were reported

	Spring (Apr-May)	Summer (June)	Autumn (July-Oct)
Essex	13	12	4
Herts	38	10	3
Middx	11	5	5
Bucks	3	0	0
Kent	4	1	1
Surrey	11	2	2
In Lond	2	0	0

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Status: rare breeding resident and scarce winter visitor.

Birds were recorded at 52 sites, an increase from 42 in 2012 and 36 in 2011, but most records were in the early part of the year with reports from 40 sites in January to April but only 18 in May to June and nine sites in September to December. Details are shown in the table below. Five pairs were confirmed to have bred; three in Essex, one in Herts and one in Kent and another pair probably bred in Essex, making this the best year since 2007 (five confirmed breeding and seven probable then).

Sites where Barn Owl were reported

	Winter (Jan-Apr)	Summer (May-Aug)	Winter (Sep-Dec)
Essex	7	4	3
Herts	20	9	4
Middx	7	3	1
Bucks	1	-	-
Kent	3	1	-
Surrey	2	1	1

Little Owl *Athena noctua*

Status: localised breeding resident, introduced to UK in the 19th century.

Records were received from 85 sites, slightly fewer than in 2012 (94 sites) and also down on previous years (over 100 in 2009, 2010 and 2011). These numbers may not represent the actual abundance as the numbers of sites with records in Essex and Herts were much lower than in 2012 whereas there were significant increases in Middx, Kent and Surrey. Only 15

pairs were reported to have bred (37 in 2012), although birds may have bred at several other sites where pairs were present and were seen on many dates throughout the breeding season. More than two birds were observed at several other sites. Breeding estimates are given below.

Essex: Reported from 12 sites (29 in 2012). Netherhouse Farm (1).

Herts: Reported from 21 sites (41 in 2012) with only one confirmed breeding (15 in 2012). Stocker's Farm (1).

Middx: Reported from 20 sites (up from nine in 2012). Home Park (1). Stanwell Moor (1). Totteridge Valley (4). May also have bred in Bushy Park where up to five birds were present throughout the year.

Bucks: Reported from one site, Q. Mother Res, where two birds were present on Jan 3rd.

Kent: Reported from five sites, up from two in 2012. Hook Farm Allotments (1), three young fledged.

Surrey: Reported from 24 sites (eight in 2012). Canons Farm (1+), pair with two young; up to eight birds reported on site. Holmethorpe SP (1). Richmond Park (1+).

In Lond: Reported from two sites (four in 2012). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3), but none bred successfully. Regent's Park (1), pair bred with four young.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Status: common breeding resident in the outer parts of the London Area, scarce towards the centre.

Reported from 128 sites, up from 96 in 2012 and 113 in 2011. Fifteen breeding records from ten sites (15 in 2012), although this species is clearly under-recorded. Birds were present during the breeding season at many other sites with two or more birds at 26 sites. The number of sites at which they were recorded is shown below together with estimates of breeding pairs.

Essex: Reported from 18 sites.

Herts: Reported from 28 sites. Oak Hill Woods (1), pair with three juvs. Rickmansworth (1).

Middx: Reported from 18 sites. Alexandra Park (2). Horsenden Hill (2). Queen's Wood (1+). Totteridge Valley (3+). Trent Park (1), two juvs on May 28th.

Kent: Reported from eight sites. No breeding records but up to four heard in York Avenue, Sidcup on Feb 13th.

Surrey: Reported from 52 sites. Richmond Park (1).

In Lond: Reported from four sites. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2), a pair with four owlets on several dates in April. Regent's Park (1), one adult found dead and one juv in April. Tilman Street E1, one on Jan 12th. Victoria Park, one on Jan 5th.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; rare breeder.

Recorded at six sites, which is up from one site in 2012 and two in 2011. Five were winter records with four present at Beddington Farmlands and one pair bred at a site in Essex where they bred in 2011.

Essex: Site A (1). Dagenham Chase, one on Jan 1st (VHF). Sewardstone Marsh, one on Mar 18th (MD).

Kent: Crayford Marsh, one on Jan 15th seen midday in hawthorn (KMJs).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, four flushed from daytime roost when disturbed by removal of elder copse on Feb 1st (BFBG). Chelsham, one on Feb 20th (SBC).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, with occasional influxes; rare breeder.

Birds were reported from only 18 sites, well down on the 39 last year, but birds were seen in at least nine months of the year with a single bird summering at Rainham Marshes. There were reports from 12 sites in the first half of the year and five sites in the second half. The highest count was six birds seen both at KGVI Res and at Staines Moor on January 6th and 8th. There were also three birds on several dates in March at Rainham Marshes.

Essex: Leyton, single on Nov 10th. Rainham Marshes, recorded in January, February and March with a peak of three in March and a single bird summered. Wanstead Flats, singles on Feb 1st, Mar 12th and May 4th.

Herts: Cheshunt, one on Apr 12th. Hatfield Aerodrome, one on Mar 30th. Rye Meads, one on Oct 13th.

Middx: KGVI Res, up to six between Jan 5th and Feb 20th. Staines Moor, up to six between Jan 5th and Mar 24th which were the same birds seen at KGVI Res. Staines Res, one on Apr 7th. Stanwell Moor, singles on Jan 6th & 19th and three on Jan 20th, were the same birds seen at KGVI Res. Ten Acre Wood, one on Jan 6th. Wormwood Scrubs, one on Oct 9th.

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, singles were reported on Mar 25th, 28th & 30th and May 1st.

Surrey: Ashtead Common, one on Jan 20th. Beddington Farmlands, one on Jan 19th & 20th. Canons Farm, one on Nov 27th. QE II Res, one on Feb 9th. Richmond Park, one on Oct 6th.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Status: common, though probably declining, breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first arrival was one at Cheshunt on April 14th. Numbers built up from April 16th onwards, with 3,000 at Staines Res on May 15th and 1,400 at Rainham Marshes on June 9th and August 6th.

Leucistic or partial albino birds were seen at Hilfield Pk Res, Brent Res, Bushy Park and Richmond Park. The last of the year was at Walthamstow Marsh on October 5th. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change in London from 2012 to 2013, but a 52% decline from 1995 to 2012. We only received breeding records from 15 sites, so more breeding records would be welcomed. Breeding records are given below with (nos. of pairs in brackets), together with peak counts.

Essex: Grays (2). Orsett (1). Rainham Marshes, 1,400 on Jun 9th and Aug 6th.

Herts: Chiswell Green (1). Coursers Farm (1+). Maple Cross (3). Rye Meads, 1,000 on May 18th. St Albans (1). West End (1+).

Middx: Ashford (1). Brent Res, 800 on Jun 9th. Finsbury Pk (1+). Staines Res, 3,000 on May 15th. Stapleton Hall Road N4 (1).

Surrey: Clapham (1). Croydon (1). Island Barn Res, 1,000 on May 12th. Thames Ditton (6+). Tolworth (1).

In Lond: Massingham St E1 (1 or 2). Regent's Park, 60 on May 17th and Jun 4th.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

Status: vagrant.

The additional record for 2012 makes it four years in a row for one to be seen. The May date is a little late for this species, with nine of the previous 28 records being in April (the table below shows the arrival dates for all previous records.) This bird was seen while the observer was walking to get her Sunday papers and present for about ten minutes over a lake. All records have been of single birds.

Alpine Swift arrival dates 1965-2011: 28 records, 28 birds

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
No. of records	2	9	4	2	1	2	5	2	1

2012 Addition

Essex: Cranham GC, one on May 13th (RBs).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Status: locally common breeding resident with additional birds in winter.

They were recorded at 212 sites, significantly more than in recent years (151 in 2012 and 147 in 2011). Four or more were seen together at Belhus Woods CP, Rainham Marshes, Rye Meads, Richmond Park, Thorpe Water Park and Sevenoaks WR. Most records were of single birds and there were only 15 confirmed breeding pairs (eight in 2012) although another four may have bred and there are records of pairs present at many other sites. The number of sites where they were recorded is shown below for each county, with confirmed breeding records and all records for Inner London.

Essex: Recorded at 33 sites. Belhus Woods CP (1). Dagenham Chase (1). Mar Dyke Valley (1). Rainham Marshes (1). Walthamstow Res (1).

Herts: Recorded at 49 sites. Amwell NR (1). Essendon (1). Rye Meads (1).

Middx: Recorded at 36 sites. Stanwell Moor (1).

Bucks: Recorded at 3 sites. Horton GP (1)

Kent: Recorded at 25 sites.

Surrey: Recorded at 59 sites. Beddington Park (1). Hogsmill SW (1). Holmethorpe SP (1). Richmond Park (1), three fledged. Spencer Road Wetland (1).

In Lond: Camley Street Natural Park, one on May 3rd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Jan 1st, 12th & 15th, Apr 20th-21st and on Dec 13th. Paddington Basin, one on Jan 7th, 12th, 14th and 22nd. Regent's Canal, Mile End, one on Nov 26th and Dec 24th. Regent's Park, one or two on nine dates in July, August and September with two on Aug 27th & 28th. St James's Park, one on Sep 2nd and Oct 20th. Victoria Park, one on Oct 24th.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

Two records was an improvement on recent years with one in 2012 (see addition below) and in 2011, although 2010 had five records, which was the best since 1984. Both this year's records were in April and both were seen in flight, although one landed for about twenty minutes before continuing on its way. April is the most common month for this

species to arrive (see table in *LBR* 2011); the table below shows records in the previous ten years. The additional record for 2012 is the first recent July record.

Hoopoe records 2003-2012: 16 records, 16 birds

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of records	2	1	3	2	1	1	0	5	1	0

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 15th (CBe *et al.*)

Middx: Brent Res, one on Apr 21st (RB).

2012 Addition

Surrey: Richmond Park, one on Jul 6th (MWa *et al.*)

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

Five records this year, which is similar to the previous two years, as well as an addition for 2011. All were in the autumn, which is the most likely time to see them in London (see *LBR* 2012 for details), but four of them arrived in the seven day period from August 28th to September 3rd. The last, in October is much more unusual. The additional record for 2011 was another September arrival.

Essex: KGV Res, one on Aug 28th (MSd) although there were reports of two birds there.

Wanstead Flats, one from Sep 3rd-9th (JP, RV *et al.*)

Middx: Alexandra Park, one from Aug 30th-31st (AG, HWJ).

Kent: Cudham, one on Aug 29th (REI).

In Lond: Hyde Park, one on Oct 2nd in the Rose Garden (SSk)

2011 Addition

Surrey: Walton Res, one on Sep 9th (SJS).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Status: common breeding resident.

Records came from 278 sites, which is up from 238 in 2012 and 258 in 2011. There were 115 breeding pairs, lower than the 154 in 2012 and similar to previous recent years. The true figure is probably higher, as there were many records of birds present throughout the breeding season at other sites. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 78% increase between 1995 and 2012 in London. Breeding estimates are given below (no. of territories in brackets) for sites with two or more pairs, all records for Inner London and peak counts.

Essex: Recorded from 50 sites. Belhus Woods CP, 20 on Aug 1st. Rainham Marshes (2).

Herts: Recorded from 80 sites. Essendon, eight on Jul 29th.

Middx: Recorded from 46 sites. Brent Res. 11 on Aug 26th. Forty Hall (2). Home Park (15). Horsenden Hill (9).

Bucks: Recorded from three sites.

Kent: Recorded from 32 sites. Chipstead Lake (4). Footh Cray Meadows (4). Greenwich Park (2). Lullystone Park (4+). Sevenoaks WR, eight on Apr 17th and May 1st.



Green Woodpecker. (Andrew Moon)

Surrey: Recorded from 61 sites. Arbrook Common (4). Ashted Common (3). London Wetland Centre (2). Molesey Heath (2). South Norwood Lake (2). West End Common (2). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (20).

In Lond: Recorded at Buckingham Palace Gdns; Hammersmith Cemetery; Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, where seen throughout the year with up to four birds; Regent's Park (1); and St James's Park.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Status: common breeding resident.

Recorded at 305 sites, which is more than the 286 in 2012 and continuing the increase from previous years. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change in London from 2012 to 2013, but an increase of 87% from 1995-2012. Breeding estimates are given below (no. of territories in brackets) for sites with two or more pairs, all records for Inner London and peak counts.

Essex: Recorded at 41 sites. Belhus Woods CP (3).

Herts: Recorded at 80 sites. Hoddesdonpark Wood (8). Northaw Great Wood (9). Woodside, Hatfield (4+). Wormley Wood (23).

Middx: Recorded at 58 sites. Fir & Pond Woods (2). Home Park (9). Horsenden Hill (16). Monken Hadley Common (4). Oakwood Park (2). Queen's Wood (10+). Trent Park (5). Whitewebbs Wood (3).

Bucks: Recorded at one site.

Kent: Recorded at 41 sites. Foots Cray Meadow (4). Greenwich Park (3).

Surrey: Recorded at 73 sites. Arbrook Common (3). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (c50).

In Lond: No confirmed breeding this year. Recorded at Battersea Park; Buckingham Palace Gdns; Burgess Park, three on Jan 25th; Hammersmith Cemetery, three on Jan 28th and a partially leucistic bird in May and June; Holland Park; Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, five with two drumming on Apr 1st, Regent's Park; Rotherhithe; Russia Dock Woodland; Tooley St SE1; Victoria Park, three on Jan 5th and Mar 2nd.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Status: scarce and declining breeding resident.

The decline continues, with records from just 40 sites (53 in 2012) and there were no records at all from Kent unlike in previous years. Also, almost half of the sites just had one bird on one date, showing a continuing decline. As in 2012, there were only two sites with territories, both in Surrey. The only site with an apparently stable breeding population is Richmond Park with five territories, where at least four pairs have been present since at least 2009. All records are given below, with no. of territories in brackets.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, singles reported on ten dates in January, February, March, April, November and December. Broadfields Farm, one on Mar 29th. Claybury Park, one on Oct 25th. Cornmill Meadows, one on Dec 27th. Dagnam Park, one on Jan 9th. Hainault Forest, one on May 6th. Mar Dyke Valley, one on Nov 18th. Maylands GC, one on Aug 26th. Netherhall GP, one on Mar 9th. Ongar Park Wood, one on Dec 29th. Purfleet, one on Mar 26th. Upminster, one on Aug 1st. Wanstead Park, singles on Apr 22nd, May 13th and Nov 10th.

Herts: Amwell NR, singles on Jan 1st & 6th. Beech Farm GP, one on Jul 1st. Cassiobury Park, singles on Feb 12th and Mar 6th. Maple Lodge NR, one on Dec 7th. Northaw Great Wood, singles on Jan 4th and Apr 7th. Rickmansworth, one on Apr 22nd. Stocker's Lake, singles on Jan 6th & 11th. Tolpits Lake, one on Mar 25th. Tyttenhanger GP, two on Mar 26th and singles on Mar 18th and Apr 9th. Verlamium Park, one on Nov 13th.

Middx: Brent Res, singles on Apr 13th & 20th. Bushy Park, singles on five dates in February, April and May with possibly two on Apr 25th. Fryent CP, one on May 7th. Horsenden Hill, singles on Apr 20th & 27th and Dec 7th with a male and fem both recorded. Ickenham, singles on Aug 4th and Sep 17th. Ruislip Lido, one on Jan 6th. Trent Park, singles on Jan 17th, Feb 18th & 23rd and Apr 9th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, singles on Apr 27th, May 4th, Jul 27th and Aug 16th. Common Meadow, one on May 2nd. Danebury Ave Priory (1), male and juv on Jun 29th. Hickman's Close, Godstone, one on peanut feeder in garden on May 4th. Holmethorpe SP, one on Dec 15th. Horton CP, one on Jan 7th. Richmond Park (5). South Norwood Lake, one on Dec 22nd. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath, one from Apr 18th-24th. Wimbledon Park, singles on Oct 7th and Dec 17th.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Status: scarce passage migrant and occasional rare breeder.

For the sixth year there was no confirmed breeding but there was a bird in the breeding season at a previous breeding site. Single birds were seen at just six sites, the poorest total ever. Unusually, only one of these was in October, usually the best month in recent years. The table below shows the arrival dates for recent years.

Woodlark passage* arrival dates 2007-2013: 53 records, 84 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	3	4	2	4	2	2	29	3	4
No. of birds	10	4	2	4	2	3	40	3	16

*counts of possible breeders ignored

Essex: Hangman's Wood, one on Oct 7th (RBs). Leyton, one on Feb 16th (SF). Wanstead Flats, one flushed on Mar 19th (NC).

Middx: Alexandra Park, one N on Jan 21st with 23 Skylarks (DML).

Surrey: Canons Farm, one on Apr 13th (JGi) and one singing on Apr 20th (RWe, DCa et al). Site B, one on Jul 6th.

Skylark *Alda arvensis*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

This year's winter counts had three sites recording 50 or more, one more than last year. A cold-weather influx was noted on January 21st and 22nd from sites as far afield as Blackheath, Beddington Farmlands, Regent's Park and the London Wetland Centre. The number of territories was very similar to last year (at least 205 from 62 sites, compared with 216 from 68 sites in 2012). For sites where there is information for both years there appears to have been little change. It is good to note that breeding populations are holding on at Richmond Park and Wanstead Flats, though these relatively central sites held a total of 15 territories, compared with 18 in 2009. Breeding was confirmed at seven sites, the same number as last year (though not the same sites as last year). Autumn passage was mostly in October, as is usual, but only very small numbers were involved. Details below give the number of territories for each sector and some breeding details and high counts.

Essex: 65 territories from six sites (up from 31 last year at seven sites). The big difference in numbers can be explained by the number of territories at Orsett Fen and Rainham Marshes, which were not surveyed in 2012. Belhus Woods CP (5). Codham Hall (4). Orsett Fen (21). Rainham Marshes (24). St Vincent's Hamlet (4). Wanstead Flats (7).

Herts: 45 territories from 27 sites (down from 100 last year at 42 sites). Beech Farm GP (8). Cole Green Tip (3). Cooper's Green Lane (2). Hatfield Aerodrome (7). Tyttenhanger GP (3).

Middx: 33 territories from 13 sites (up from 11 last year at two sites). Home Park (10). Lake Farm CP (10+).

Kent: 12 territories from five sites (down from 29 last year at eight sites). Crossness (2). Layhams Farm (6). Upper College Farm (2).

Surrey: 49 territories at ten sites (up from 45 last year at nine sites). Beddington Farmlands, 116 on Jan 21st. Canons Farm (8+); 50 on Feb 11th. Farthing Downs (4). Moat Farm (2). Richmond Park (8). Riddlesdown (15). Rushett Farm (8+). Tenchleys (1). Treverex (2).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Jan 21st. Regent's Park, one over on Jan 21st, two over on Apr 7th, one over on Sep 15th and one over on Nov 10th.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Status: common summer visitor, localised breeder and passage migrant.

As in 2010 and 2011 the first sighting of spring was on March 9th, this year at Rainham Marshes. However, after nine birds were seen the following day, the bitterly cold weather

thereafter brought migration to an abrupt halt. Incredibly, between March 11th and April 5th only 14 more birds were seen, this being a period when 100+ flocks often appear at London reservoirs. The interrupted spring passage did not restart until the second week of April and was poor. The biggest spring passage count was 86, well down on typical peaks.

Breeding numbers at sites where we have records for this year and last year showed little change from the low numbers last year. More regular counts from sites would be welcome.

Return passage was unspectacular with a small peak in the period September 18th to 21st. Six day counts of 50 or more and three of 100 or more were noted, the largest being 200+ at Staines Res on September 21st. Visible migration watches at Brent Res produced a total of 268 between August 10th and September 20th. The last record was at Walthamstow Marsh on October 5th. Confirmed and probable breeding counts are given below, along with all Inner London sightings.

Essex: Mill Wood (11). Walthamstow Marsh (4).

Middx: Limehouse Cut (2).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (3). Hogsmill SW (2). Holmethorpe SP (c45). London Wetland Centre (26). Oxted SP (20). Portsmouth Road FB (4). Raven's Ait (c7-10).

In Lond: Hermitage Basin, two on Jun 26th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, five on Apr 12th and two on Apr 15th. Limehouse Basin (2). Regent's Park, five on Sep 15th. Rotherhithe (1). Shadwell Basin, one on Jun 5th. Tower Bridge, three on May 30th. Victoria Park, three on Jul 6th and five on Jul 9th. Westminster, two on May 3rd.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, breeding confined to rural areas.

In common with other hirundines, spring passage was late. The first bird was at Amwell NR on April 2nd compared with March 17th last year. This was an extraordinarily late date, and meant that for the first time since 1997 there were no March records. There was a general arrival at many sites on April 10th to 11th but spring passage was light compared with 2012. There were counts of 100 or more at six sites, compared with 21 last year. The peaks were 200 at Hilfield Park Res on April 19th, at Netherhall GP on May 11th and at Canons Farm on May 14th.

Post-breeding congregation and return passage was noted from mid-August. One peak was in mid-September when 400 were counted at Rainham Marshes on 14th and there were 1,000 in a feeding congregation of 5,000 hirundines in poor weather at Staines Res the following day. The main movement was a week later, however, with 14 sites noting 100 or more from September 22nd to 23rd. The biggest counts were 3,417 south-west over Wraybury Res in two hours on 22nd, then on 23rd 1,150 south in half an hour at Richmond Park, 800+ over Beddington Farmlands, 400 at the London Wetland Centre and 400 over Wanstead Flats. After this concentrated movement, numbers fell off quickly and there were few records in October. The last bird was one at Rainham Marshes on November 10th, a typical date.

There were breeding records from five sites in Essex, where there were none last year and also the first breeding record in Croydon for some time, at Heathfield. In contrast there was a big decrease in the Herts sector, and a smaller decline in Surrey. It is not known to what extent these changes were the product of better or poorer observer coverage. Sites where breeding was confirmed or probable, and Inner London highlights,



*Breeding Skylarks continue to decline in the more central areas like Wanstead Flats.
(Jonathan Lethbridge)*

are given below, with the number of nests in brackets, where known.

Essex: Brook Farm (1). Buckhurst Hill (1). Mar Dyke Valley (4). Orsett Fen (1). Watton's Green (c8).

Herts: Brickendonbury. Colney Heath (1). Essendon. Holt Farm. Goffs Oak. Stocker's Farm. West End.

Middx: Home Park (1). South Lodge Farm (2). Strayfield Road (2). Totteridge Valley (3).

Surrey: Heathfield (1). Richmond Park (1). Rushett Farm (2). Trevereux (2). West End Common (3).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, spring passage Apr 10th to May 14th, with 15 on Apr 12th. Regent's Park, spring passage Apr 14th to May 27th and autumn passage Aug 2nd to Sep 30th, with 64 over on Sep 16th. Westminster, spring passage Apr 15th to May 16th.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Status: common but declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first record of the year was at Waterworks NR on Mar 28th. Although this was three days earlier than the first last year, it was later than any other arrival since 2003. There followed a trickle of birds in the first half of April, which accelerated a little in the second half of the month but was still weak. In fact, the biggest count during the month was 75 at Brent Res on 27th. There were two surges in May, from 11th to 15th when there were counts of more than 100 at Netherhall GP, Sevenoaks WR and Island Barn Res; and from 28th to 29th with three-figure counts at Bury Lake, the London Wetland Centre, Sevenoaks WR and Island Barn Res.

Post-breeding concentrations and return passage were modest until late August, when 80 at the London Wetland Centre hinted at larger numbers to come. During September

there were 36 site counts of 100 or more. The peak period was from 14th to 16th with an estimated 4,000 at Staines Res in poor weather conditions on 15th, 500 at Rainham Marshes on 14th and 700 at Sewardstone on 16th. Another reasonable movement took place on 23rd, when 700 were counted at Canons Farm, 594 at Brook Farm and 475 at Wraysbury GP. Many were still on the move in the first week of October but numbers declined after that until the last two were seen at Rainham Marshes on October 22nd.

There were 142 confirmed or probable breeding records from 31 sites, compared with figures of 152 and 38 respectively last year. It is worth considering that in 2002 the species was described as "still a widespread breeding species" with 400 nests counted. There has been a steady decline since then and, even allowing for patchy observer coverage, the London population is worryingly low. In 2013, breeding numbers were significantly up in the Essex sector compared with the previous year, slightly up in Surrey but noticeably down in Herts. All breeding records are given below with the number of nests in brackets.

Essex: 31+ breeding records, seven sites. Chafford Hundred (5). Grays (8). Great Warley (5+). Orsett (5). South Ockendon (6). Walthamstow FB (1+). Wanstead (1+).

Herts: Two-plus breeding, two sites. Chiswell Green (1+). Colney Heath (1+).

Middx: 57+ breeding, seven sites. Ashford (1). Canary Wharf (2). Chiswick (1+). Hampton Hill (1). Ruislip Woods (4). Staines (3+). The Broadway, West Hendon (45-50).

Kent: At least eight breeding, three sites. Greenhithe (1). Greenwich (1). Lullingstone Castle (6+).

Surrey: 42 breeding, nine sites. Berrylands (2). Carshalton Beeches (5). Hackbridge (1). Peckham Rye Park (13). Putney (2). Sanderstead (5). Surbiton (3). West End Common (7). Thames Ditton (4).

In Lond: Seven-plus breeding, three sites. Haggerston (2+). Camden Town (3+). Wapping (2+).

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Status: rare vagrant.

These are the 16th and 17th records for London after no records last year, but this is only the second time that there have been two records in one year. The previous occasion

Red-rumped Swallow. This fantastic find was one of two birds in May from the well-watched Beddington Farmlands that represent the 16th and 17th records for London. (Peter Alfrey)



was in 2003 when birds were seen at Beddington Farmlands and at Staines Res on April 28th. It was also remarkable that both records were at the same site; there have only ever been two records at Beddington Farmlands before these. As the table below shows, over half the previous records were in May.

Red-rumped Swallow arrival dates 1964-2013: 17 records, 17 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	-	-	-	5	10	1	-	-	-	1	-	-

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on May 12th (DAC); another or the same, May 24th-25th (JSi *et al*).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Status: passage migrant and scarce, seriously decreasing breeding summer visitor.

Spring passage was well up on last year, involving 26 birds between March 14th and May 7th, compared with eight last year between April 15th and May 9th. The first, on March 14th at Walthamstow Res, was the earliest record ever and was followed by one on Wanstead Flats on March 31st. There were 21 birds in April (two in 2012) and three in May (six in 2012). The best location in spring was Rainham Marshes, with seven bird-days.

The number of autumn migrants was 29, down on the 39 or 40 of last year. Passage lasted from August 16th (one in Richmond Park) to October 13th (one at Wormwood Scrubs), with 14 in August, 13 in September and two in October. There were two mini-peaks: eight birds were noted in each of the periods August 22nd to 25th and September 3rd to 9th. The best autumn site was Wanstead Flats, with records on 12 days, and the highest count was three there on September 7th. There were no territorial records for the second consecutive year.

In Lond: Regent's Park, singles on Apr 21st, Sep 3rd & 16th (ARD, GHn).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor, localised breeder.

There were three winter flocks of 50 or more this year, the same number as last year: 70 at KGV Res on January 23rd; 50 at KGV Res on November 3rd; and 50 at Stanwell Moor on December 19th. Spring passage started on March 10th but was very light until the end of the month. The peaks were in the periods March 23rd to 28th (including 50 at Brent Res on 25th) and April 11th to 14th (including 50 at Walthamstow Marsh on 11th and a "steady passage" over Q. Mother Res on 12th).

As usual, autumn passage was much heavier, though not as heavy as last year. It began in the second week of September, peaking halfway through the month and continuing through October. There were 22 records of 50 birds or more; of these, six were 100 or more (compared with eight in 2012). The biggest counts were all in September: 160+ at Regent's Park and 120 over Hampstead Heath on 15th, 115 at Beddington Farmlands on 26th and 110-150 at Ten Acre Wood on 21st. At Brent Res, visible migration counts logged 191 between September 10th and November 24th.

As shown below, breeding territories were reported from nine sites (eight last year, an all-time low) with at least 28 territories, a slight increase from last year's 18+.

Essex: Rainham Marshes (5). Wanstead Flats (8).

Herts: Hatfield Aerodrome (1).

Middx: Home Park (2). Lake Farm CP (2). Wormwood Scrubs (4). Yeading Brook Meadows (3).

Kent: Greenwich Peninsula (2).

Surrey: Riddlesdown (1).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor.

Most of the records of this species within London are thought to belong to the Scandinavian sub-species *littoralis*, with several birds in spring assuming their more recognisable summer plumage. As usual, most records were from the Lower Thames marshes, particularly Rainham Marshes. In the early winter period there was a peak count of 32 at Rainham Marshes. This is the first count of 30 or more since 1971, when 40 were at Dartford Marshes in January. A handful of passage birds were seen away from the Thames in March and April, the last of these being at Wanstead Flats on April 19th. The first returning birds were two at Hilfield Park Res on September 27th. Thereafter, numbers remained low until December when there was a peak of 20 at Rainham Marshes on 13th. Numbers in both winter periods were above average for recent years. Monthly maxima for Rainham Marshes and Crayford Marshes are shown below, followed by other records.

Rock Pipit monthly maxima	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	32	10	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	20
KT Crayford Marshes	4	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4

Essex: Gallions Reach, one on Jan 13th and Dec 12th. Grays Riverside, one on Jan 12th.

KGV Res, one from Mar 29th to Apr 6th. Rainham Marshes, recorded up to Mar 30th with a peak of 32 on Jan 9th; then recorded from Nov 3rd with a peak of 20 on Dec 13th. Walthamstow Res, one on Jan 13th, then one to two intermittently from Mar 9th-22nd, one on Apr 7th and one on Oct 25th. Wanstead Flats, one on Apr 19th. West Thurrock Marshes, five on Oct 23rd and one on Dec 12th.

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, one from Mar 31st to Apr 1st, and up to two from Sep 27th-29th. Rye Meads, one on Nov 2nd.

Middx: Brent Res, singles on Mar 10th and Oct 6th. KGV Res, one on Nov 25th. Staines Res, two on Apr 6th and up to two between Sep 28th and Oct 14th. Wraysbury Res, singles on Mar 14th & 26th and up to two from Oct 3rd-12th.

Bucks: Colnbrook Landfill, one on Sep 28th. Q. Mother Res, up to two from Mar 6th-28th and up to three between Sep 28th and Nov 25th.

Kent: Belvedere shore, one on Nov 22nd. Crayford Marshes, recorded up to Mar 15th with a peak of four, and from Oct 9th with a peak of four. Crossness, two on Jan 1st, one on Feb 23rd and up to three from Oct 14th to Dec 7th. Dartford Marshes, one on Jan 12th and two on Jan 25th. Swanscombe Marshes, up to three between Oct 5th and Nov 23rd. Swanscombe Marshes/Greenhithe, six on Jan 1st.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, singles on Mar 23rd, Sep 28th and from Oct 11th-14th. London Wetland Centre, singles from Mar 17th-30th, Oct 11th-17th and Nov 7th. QE II Res, one on Oct 12th.



Meadow Pipit. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Status: regular but localised winter visitor and passage migrant.

Although several sites in the Lower Thames marshes attracted the species as usual, KGVI Res and Staines Moor also proved to be good, with the year's highest total of seven at the latter on February 16th. In the early part of the year birds were recorded until April 13th and the first returning birds were on October 14th. Surprisingly, there was just one record from Rainham Marshes in the second winter period, when numbers were generally low. All records are given below, some summarised.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, recorded until Apr 13th with three birds on several dates; just a single on Nov 28th in the second winter period. Walthamstow Res, one on Mar 14th. West Thurrock Marshes, singles on Oct 23rd and Dec 12th.

Herts: Amwell, one on Mar 10th. Rye Meads, singles on Jan 12th, Mar 23rd; then on several dates from Oct 19th.

Middx: KGVI Res, up to two birds present until Mar 10th; then from Nov 2nd with numbers increasing to five in December. Staines Moor, recorded until Apr 13th, with a peak of seven on Feb 16th; then from Oct 29th, with four on Dec 29th. Staines Res, singles on three dates in April.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, singles on Apr 9th and on several dates from Nov 7th to Dec 12th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, singles on several dates to Mar 15th. Crossness, singles on Jan 1st and Mar 20th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, up to two birds until May 1st; up to two recorded from Nov 1st. London Wetland Centre, singles on Oct 14th & 19th and Nov 2nd & 13th.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*

Status: rare vagrant.

The two birds from 2012 remained at Q. Mother Res for most of January (see 2012 report for full details). They were also seen at the entrance to a nearby quarry on some dates.

Bucks: Horton, two at the entrance to Kingsmead Quarry on Jan 12th, 13th & 16th, with one present to 19th. Q. Mother Res, two intermittently to Jan 22nd with one (the original individual) remaining until 26th (MMcK *et al*).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Status: common passage migrant and decreasing, now scarce, breeder.

Last year, spring passage was very heavy and peaked in early May, this year numbers were back to normal levels and peaked in late April. The first bird was one over Leyton on March 27th. As with a number of other migrants, passage did not really start until April 9th and thereafter there were records almost daily until the end of May. There were only five counts of ten or more, the highest of these being 22 at Rainham Marshes on April 21st. The largest London-wide totals were 40 on April 20th and 50 on 27th. During the peak period of passage, April 20th to 27th, 178 birds were noted, compared with 551 in the first week of May 2012. Some spring stragglers were noted in the first half of June.

Unlike last year, autumn passage exceeded that of spring, hopefully reflecting a better breeding season. Passage probably started with a bird flying north-east over Alexandra Park on July 18th but involved few birds until the last week of August when numbers picked up. Between August 23rd and September 24th there were 19 counts of ten or more, the largest being 20 at Rainham Marshes on August 28th and 22 at Colnbrook Landfill on September 24th. The day of heaviest passage was August 26th when 96 birds were counted.

The species is just about hanging on as a breeding species in London. Breeding records were up from two in 2012 to three this year. Although birds were present at other sites during the summer, there was no compelling evidence for breeding elsewhere.

Herts: Tyttenhanger Farm (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1).

Middx: South Barvin Farm (1).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, three over on Apr 15th and one over on Apr 17th.

Regent's Park, singles on Apr 30th and Aug 30th, nine on Sep 15th, five on Sep 16th, one on Oct 18th and one on Oct 24th.

SUB-SPECIES: Blue-headed Wagtail *M. f. flava*

Status: passage migrant, more commonly seen in spring than in autumn.

There were four records involving eight birds in spring. The dates and locations were typical.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 27th

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, three on May 8th. London Wetland Centre, three on Apr 19th and one on May 2nd.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were 36 records of confirmed or probable breeding, a lower figure than last year's

49. Though the higher figure in 2012 is partly explained by the bumper total on the River Wandle (11), this year's count is also lower than the previous few years with totals for the Essex, Herts, Kent and Surrey sectors down. The most important wintering sites were Rye Meads, with 20 on February 9th and 30 on November 3rd; and R Wandle: Carshalton-Wandsworth, with 14 on January 7th and 16 on December 28th. The highest count on spring passage was eight at KGV Res on March 31st. Confirmed or probable breeding records are listed below (all single pairs unless shown). For Inner London, activity suggestive of breeding is also indicated.

Essex: Walthamstow Res (2).

Herts: Hampermill Lake, Hertford, Hilfield Park Res, Rickmansworth, Rye Meads (2), Troy Mill Lake, Watford Link Road, West End.

Middx: Brent Res, Bushy Park, Forty Hall, Kentish Town, Town Park (Enfield), Whitewebbs Wood.

Bucks: Wraybury.

Kent: Brookmill Park, Fooks Cray Meadows.

Surrey: Ham Lands, Richmond Park, R Hogsmill (Kingston), R Wandle (Carshalton Ponds, Morden Hall Park, Poulter Park, Summerstown), Teddington Lock, Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath.

In Lond: Giltspur Street EC1, pair on territory throughout breeding season. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, pair nested and raised two young. Paddington Basin, one young with parent; Regent's Park, one young with parent; Wapping, pair and juv at Hermitage Basin on Jun 12th.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

There were 31 confirmed or probable breeding records, down on last year's 41 records but significantly up on the 19 and 16 of 2011 and 2010 respectively. There was no large winter roost to compare with last year's 2,000-3,000 at Heathrow. Visible migration counts at Brent Res produced a total of 73 birds over between September 19th and November 20th. Roost counts of 50 or more and breeding records are listed below.

Essex: Brook Farm (1). Harold Wood SW, 186 on Jan 30th and 60 on Apr 9th. Mar Dyke Valley (1). Rainham Marshes (1). Walthamstow Marsh, 60 on Apr 11th.

Herts: Aldenham CP (1). Chiswell Green (1). Colney Heath (1). Hertford, 70 in Salisbury Square on Dec 16th. Hilfield Park Res (1). Rye Meads (2); 60 on Jan 26th and 100 on Mar 5th. Stocker's Lake (1). Troy Mill Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Woodside, Hatfield (1).

Middx: Brent Res (1). Guy Lodge Farm (1). Home Park (1). Park Farm, Enfield (1). Parkside Farm, Enfield (1). South Lodge Farm, Enfield (1). Stanmore Rec (1). Town Park, Enfield (1). Trent Park (1). Vicarage Farm, Enfield (1). Winchmore Hill (1). Wraybury Res, 148 on Sep 26th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 110 on Nov 19th.

Kent: Bexleyheath Market Square, 292 on Nov 22nd. Fooks Cray Meadows (1); 161 by Tesco superstore, Dec 31st. Greenwich Park (1). Greenwich Peninsula (1). Sevenoaks WR (1).

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, 120 on Jan 22nd. Hook, 50 on Jan 31st. London Wetland Centre (1).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1+). Regent's Park (1).

SUB-SPECIES: White Wagtail *M. a. alba*

Status: passage migrant, more commonly seen in spring than in autumn.

There were c120 records this year, the highest total since 2006. As usual, some of these records are of the same birds seen on consecutive or near-consecutive dates. Spring passage was from March 10th to May 28th, which are typical dates. Autumn passage was particularly poor, involving just three or four birds at two sites from September 26th to 28th. There were no Inner London records. Counts of three or more and passage dates at key sites are listed below.

Essex: KGV Res, recorded on six dates between Mar 21st and Apr 14th. Rainham Marshes, recorded on six dates between Mar 27th and Apr 28th.

Middx: Staines Res, recorded on eight dates between Mar 15th and May 4th. Wraysbury Res, four on Apr 18th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, three on Apr 27th & 28th. Recorded on 15 dates between Mar 27th and May 28th.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Status: uncommon but sometimes numerous irruptive visitor.

The invasion that had started in November 2012 (the second in three winters) was still very evident at the start of this year. At least 375 individuals were counted at various sites across London on January 1st and numbers remained high well into April, although there were not as many as during the invasion of 2010/11. The biggest flock was 120 at Stifford Clays on January 7th. The last five were at Walthamstow on May 2nd. The winter of 2013/14 was to produce no irruption, and the only record was 15-20 at Croham Hurst on November 15th. Sites that had counts of 50 or more are listed below, along with their peak count. Inner London sites with peaks of 25 or more are also shown.

Essex: Brentwood, 60 on Feb 2nd. Chafford Hundred, 77 on Jan 18th. Collier Row, 100 on Jan 8th. Harold Hill, 55 on Feb 13th. Lakeside Shopping Centre, 97 on Jan 1st. Leyton, 50 on Feb 23rd. Stifford Clays, 120 on Jan 7th. West Thurrock, 50 on Jan 1st.

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, 50 on Jan 1st.

Middx: Barnet, 115 on Feb 6th. Brent Res, 72 on Mar 9th. Hanworth, 60 on Feb 7th. Mill Hill, 80 on Jan 1st.

Kent: Bexley, 67 on Feb 4th. Crayford, 100 on Feb 3rd. Dartford, 108 on Jan 19th. Hextable Park, 90 on Jan 6th. Sidcup, 57 on Feb 25th.

Surrey: Clapham, 208 on Feb 2nd. Cobham, 70 on Jan 1st. Surbiton, 79 on Feb 23rd.

In Lond: Bancroft Road E1, 40 on Apr 10th. Clephane Road N1, 55 on Mar 11th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 12 on Apr 8th. Mile End Park, 41 from Apr 4th-11th. Milner Square N1, 30 on Mar 2nd. Regent's Park, 35 on Mar 13th. Ingrave Street, SW11, 30 on Apr 10th.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.

Despite its explosive song being a familiar sound in most months across many different habitat types, this hugely numerous species remains under-recorded. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 4% decline in the UK last year and nearly 70% of the sites where we have



The irruption that began in 2012 meant that many Londoners got Waxwing on their lists during the first winter period of 2013. (Andrew Moon)

estimates for breeding in 2012 and 2013 show a decline too. Breeding records are given below for sites where ten or more territories (no. in brackets) were recorded, along with some of the higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (16). Mar Dyke Valley (20). Nazeing (10). Rainham Marshes (61).

Herts: Amwell NR (12). Chess Valley (12). Hatfield Aerodrome (10). Northaw Great Wood (23). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (13). Rye Meads (54).

Middx: Horsenden Hill (59). Home Park (27). Queen's Wood (33).

Kent: Darenth Lakes (20). Greenwich Park (24+). Sevenoaks WR (20).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (13). Ashted Common (17). Banstead Wood (44). Beddington Farmlands (59). Canons Farm (24). Esher Common (10). London Wetland Centre (44). Molesey Heath (24). South Norwood CP, 51 on May 16th. Thames Towpath, Walton-on-Thames (14). West End Common (16).

In Lond: Buckingham Palace Gdns, 11 on Sep 12th.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Another abundant species that is greatly under-recorded, this is perhaps not helped by the unobtrusive song and behaviour of this bird. The Breeding Bird Survey showed no

evidence of any real change from last year and sites where we have estimates for breeding in 2012 and 2013 also show no evidence of real change. Breeding records are given below for sites where five or more territories (no. in brackets) were recorded, along with some of the higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (17). Grays (8). Mar Dyke Valley (8). Orsett Fen (8). Rainham Marshes (17). Tilbury (11). Wanstead Flats, 30 on Sep 13th. Warren George (7).

Herts: Amwell NR, 15 on Jan 22nd. Beech Farm GP (6). Hatfield Aerodrome (6). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (6). Rye Meads (32). West Hyde, 15 on Apr 30th.

Middx: Home Park (13). Horsenden Hill (17).

Kent: Darenth Lakes, 25 on Mar 14th. Greenwich Park (10-16).

Surrey: Ashtead Common (5). Banstead Wood (15). Beddington Farmlands (18). Berrylands, 25 on Apr 21st. Canons Farm (13). London Wetland Centre (14). Molesey Heath (17). South Norwood Lake (6).

In Lond: The only records were of one to three birds reported from Bankside, Buckingham Palace Gdns, Hammersmith Cemetery, Regent's Park (where one was singing on Dec 29th) and Victoria Park.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.

The prominent, almost omnipresent song of the Robin leads to a lot of records being received, but the high territory estimates from some surveyed sites show that under-recording still occurs. Breeding records are given below for sites where ten or more territories (no. in brackets) were recorded, along with some of the higher counts. Neither the Breeding Bird Survey for London, nor our records for 2012 and 2013 show signs of any real change this year.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (18); 32 on Nov 10th. Mar Dyke Valley (16). Rainham Marshes (24).

Herts: Hatfield Aerodrome (10). Marshalswick (17). Northaw Great Wood (20). Rye Meads (41).

Middx: Home Park (41). Queen's Wood (51). Wormwood Scrubs, 40 on Aug 3rd.

Kent: Darenth Lakes (12). Greenwich Park (27). Sevenoaks WR, 55 on Oct 5th.

Surrey: Addington Hills, 43 on Apr 20th. Arbrook Common (14). Ashtead Common (36). Banstead Wood (30). Beddington Farmlands (27). Berrylands, 100 on Oct 6th. Canons Farm (25). Esher Common (11). Ham Lands, 125 on Sep 20th. London Wetland Centre (46). Molesey Heath (21). The Ledges, Esher (14). West End Common (28).

In Lond: Buckingham Palace Gdns, 23 on Sep 12th. Larkhall Park, Stockwell (1). St James's Park (1).

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Status: breeding summer visitor in small numbers, scarce passage migrant.

There were 25 territories, fewer than in 2012, mainly due to the drop at Bookham Common. These were at five sites which is one up from last year due to the Riddlesdown bird, which is the first one holding territory in Croydon for several years. The first bird of the year was at Poplar Dock on April 15th, with almost daily reports from then on. Birds sang as late as June 24th at Fishers Green, but as is usual for such a difficult species to see, there were only four records after this. One was seen at Brent Res on June 9th

and there were then three autumn passage birds: at Rainham Marshes on August 10th, and Wanstead Flats on September 2nd and 3rd. All records are summarised below, with no. of territories/singing males in brackets.

Essex: Fishers Green Island (8). Rainham Marshes, one on Aug 10th. Wanstead Flats, one on Sep 2nd & 3rd.

Herts: Cheshunt GPs (5).

Middx: Brent Res, one on Jun 9th. Poplar Dock, one on Apr 15th singing outside McDonalds. Wormwood Scrubs, one on May 9th.

Kent: Botany Marshes (2). Dartford Marshes/Littlebrook Lake, one on Apr 22nd & 25th. Sevenoaks WR, one on Jun 1st. Swanscombe Marshes, two on Apr 18th and one on Jul 5th.

Surrey: Bookham Common (9). Chessington, one on May 4th. Riddlesdown (1).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Status: breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

Two pairs breeding this year and 19 singing males was worse than last year, but they were recorded from 40 sites outside Inner London through the course of the year, up on the 37 last year and the 21 of 2011. As usual there were also some passage birds in spring and autumn. Breeding records are summarised in the table and all other records are given below.

Black Redstart	Pairs proved breeding	Other pairs present	Additional singing males
Herts	-	-	1
Middx	-	-	5
Surrey	1	-	-
In Lond	-	1	13

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, male on May 8th. KGV Res, singles on Mar 31st, Apr 6th and May 23rd. Rainham Marshes, recorded regularly from Feb 23rd to Apr 7th, with peak count of four, then singles on Oct 24th and Dec 20th. Walthamstow Res, singles on May 3rd & 25th. Wanstead Flats, one on Apr 11th & 13th.

Herts: Cheshunt, one on Dec 6th. Hilfield Park Res, one from Nov 7th to Dec 9th. Oaklands College, one on Jul 4th. Stocker's Farm, one on Mar 29th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, pair from May 8th-10th, and male on Jul 14th. Lake Farm CP, male on Aug 28th & 29th, Sep 4th & 12th. Heathrow Airport, two males on Jun 25th, one male on Jul 10th, one fem/imm on Dec 12th. Northwood, two on Nov 9th. Stoke Newington Res, one on Apr 29th. Tottenham Marshes, one on Apr 6th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Apr 28th.

Kent: Belvedere, one on house roof on Jul 22nd. Chalk Wood, one on Oct 19th. Crossness, one on Apr 6th. Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park, fem on Apr 29th. Erith, one near Tesco on Dec 20th.

Surrey: Banstead, male from Mar 21st to Apr 6th. Epsom, male on Mar 28th. Epsom Downs, one on Apr 18th. Holmethorpe SP, fem from Apr 6th-7th, male from Apr 26th-27th. Island Barn Res, one on Mar 23rd. London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 9th. South Merstham, one on Southcote Road on Apr 7th. QE II Res, male on Apr 11th. Richmond Park, one on Apr 16th. Tattenham Corner, one in garden on Apr 8th. Walton Res, one

on Dec 4th. Weybridge, male on Mar 27th. Worcester Park, fem in garden on Apr 7th.
In Lond: Adpar St W2, one on Aug 30th. Hewlett Road E3, two on Mar 15th. Horseferry Rd, SW1, one on Dec 9th. Middlesex St E1, one on Jun 12th. Tate Modern, one on Dec 9th. Wapping, one on Jan 18th.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Status: passage migrant.

Unlike last year, there appeared to be more birds going through in the spring than in the autumn. Spring passage consisted of about 126 records (compared to 32 last year), while in the autumn there were about 72 birds (92 last year). The first was at Alexandra Lake on April 9th, with the 15th seeing birds spread across 19 different sites. This date also saw some record-breaking counts with six at Regent's Park being a spring site record and a staggering 15 at Wormwood Scrubs also being a site record. Thereafter there were records every day until the end of April, then just three in May and two in June. After the last spring record at Brent Res on June 9th there was a very early returning bird at Holmethorpe SP on July 11th.

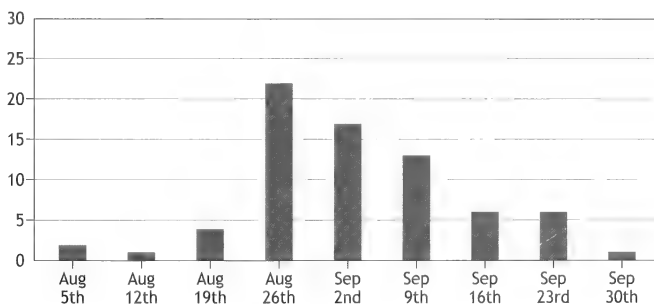
Autumn passage began on August 5th at Wanstead Flats and from August 27th there were birds on most days until September 14th. The last was at Victoria Park on October 2nd. The chart below shows the weekly autumn counts.

Common Redstart

Weekly autumn totals

Key

■ Number recorded in 2013, week commencing



In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Apr 13rd and one on Apr 14th. Regent's Park, six on Apr 15th, singles on Apr 29th, Aug 14th & 22nd and from Sep 11th-13th. Russia Dock Woodland, three on Apr 15th. Victoria Park, one on Oct 2nd.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Status: regular passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

The first arrival was on April 14th at Wormwood Scrubs, a more typical date than April 27th last year. Six sites recorded birds the next day, when the highest spring count of six was recorded at Staines Moor. The last spring bird was on May 28th at London Wetland Centre. There were about 85 spring birds (88 in 2012) recorded at 32 sites.

In the autumn, there was a very early pair at Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park on July 14th, before passage proper began with singles at KGV Res and Ingrebourne Valley on August 10th, followed by two at Barking Bay on 12th and singles at Tyttenhanger GP on 14th and Orsett Fen on 15th. From August 18th, passage was widespread, with the



Whinchat. (Andrew Moon)

peak being in late August and the first two weeks of September. The highest counts were seven at Rainham Marshes, Ingrebourne Valley and Staines Moor. Most had gone by the end of September but there were four October records, the last at Thorney CP from 19th-21st. About 369 autumn birds (348 in 2012) were recorded at 71 sites, making spring and autumn passage similar to last year. All Inner London records are given below.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Apr 15th. Regent's Park, one on Aug 26th, two on 27th, one on 28th, one on Sep 3rd, two on 11th, singles on 13th, 15th & 22nd.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Status: localised breeding resident, regular passage migrant and recently declining winter visitor.

Wintering numbers were higher this year, with records from more sites at the start of the year and again at the end of the year. In January there were records from ten sites, compared to eight in 2012 and five in 2011; the peak count was six at Rainham Marshes. An additional two sites recorded birds in February but the peak count was just three at Staines Moor. Just six sites recorded birds in March, but an above-average seven did in April, indicating delayed passage. The highest counts in March or April though were just two. A pair bred at Rainham Marshes this year, raising two broods.

The first returning bird was on September 9th at London Wetland Centre with steady passage from 13th and by the end of the month about 36 birds had passed through, with 19 sites recording 33 birds in October. Counts remained low though, with peaks of three at Richmond Park and Woodoaks Farm in September rising to six in October at Rainham Marshes. By mid-November wintering birds were at Beddington Farmlands, Bushy Park, Crayford Marshes, Crossness, Colnbrook/Horton, Rainham Marshes, Richmond Park, Staines Moor, Swanscombe Marshes and Walthamstow Marsh, an increase on the five sites in the previous two years. Peak counts in November were five at Staines Moor and, in December,

seven at Rainham Marshes. Breeding season records are given below (there were no Inner London records this year).

Essex: Rainham Marshes (1), one pair raised two broods with two juvs seen.

Middx: Wormwood Scrubs, a fem on May 1st.

Kent: Swanscombe Marshes, singles on May 11th and Jul 26th.

Surrey: Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, one on May 3rd & 5th.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Status: common passage migrant and very occasional breeding visitor.

Spring passage was a little earlier this year, with the first bird on March 5th at Woodlands Farm, and by March 15th (the date of last year's first arrival) there had also been records at Beddington Farmlands and Walthamstow Res. There was a big influx on April 15th with 44 at Richmond Park, 35 at Beddington Farmlands, 30 at Tyttenhanger GP and 29 at Wormwood Scrubs. Another exceptional influx occurred on April 26th, which featured an unprecedented 43 at Staines Moor, 27 at Wanstead Flats, 16 at Canons Farm, 12 at Beddington Farmlands, 11 at QE II Res and Walthamstow Res and ten at Fairlop Waters and Q. Mother Res. All double-figure counts were recorded between April 15th and 29th. There were still incoming birds in mid-June at Crossness and Q. Mother Res, with the last on June 20th at Cassiobury Park.

Autumn passage began at Q. Mother Res on August 1st but the next was a week later, with records then on most days between August 8th and September 29th. The peak autumn count was a modest seven at Q. Mother Res on August 29th. There were records throughout October from 19 sites with the last at Walthamstow Res from October 30th to November 3rd.

Wheatear - everyone's favourite spring migrant! (Dave Harris)



There were ten records of about 11 birds showing characteristics of the race *leucorhoa*. These were at Brent Res, Colnbrook, Hilfield Park Res, Holmethorpe SP, London Wetland Centre, Regent's Park and Richmond Park.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, records from Apr 3rd-23rd. Regent's Park, records from Apr 15th to May 6th and Aug 27th to Oct 9th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Status: regular passage migrant, but never common.

The first arrival was at Canons Farm on the early date of March 13th with the next at Richmond Park on March 26th (which stayed for a week). There were then singles at Woldingham on March 31st and on April 2nd at Beddington Farmlands and Rainham Marshes. There were no more until April 10th with one at Canons Farm which stayed for three days. The main passage was between April 12th and 17th, with singles at Greenwich Park on 12th, Crossness, Swanscombe Marshes and Brockwell Park on 13th, Hatfield Aerodrome, Lewisham Park and Richmond Park on 14th, Tylers Common, Wanstead Flats, Beddington Farmlands and London Wetland Centre on 15th and two at Stanwell Moor on 14th. This was followed by singles on April 25th at Hyde Park and at Greenwich Park. There were four singles in May, at Fairlop Waters on 3rd, Alexandra Lake and Rainham Marshes on 4th, with the last at Rainham Marshes on May 7th. There were about 25 individuals at 18 sites, lower than the spring passage in the last two years.

It was a very poor autumn with just seven birds at seven sites compared to the 40 birds last autumn. The first was at Grey Goose Farm on September 23rd, with the next at Greenwich Peninsula on October 9th. On 12th there were single birds at Hampstead Heath, Wormwood Scrubs and London Wetland Centre, followed by one at Brent Res on the 14th. The last bird of the year was at Wanstead Park on October 22nd.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, a fem on Apr 25th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Status: abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

As usual this species is very under-recorded, especially regarding breeding evidence. The Breeding Bird Survey in London again shows no significant change between 2011 & 2012 and sites where we have territorial estimates for both years also show no significant change. Breeding records are given below at sites where five or more were recorded (no. of territories/singing males in brackets), as well as the higher Inner London counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (8). Hangman's Wood (5). Leyton Jubilee Park, 36 on Dec 14th. Lion Gorge (5). Mar Dyke Valley (13). Orsett Fen (6). Rainham Marshes (20). Wanstead Flats, 40 on Nov 18th. Warren Gorge (5).

Herts: Amwell NR (6). Chess Valley (6). Hatfield Aerodrome (5). Northaw Great Wood (15). Rye Meads (25); 30 on Mar 17th.

Middx: Home Park (39). Horsenden Hill (27); 40 on Dec 13th. Queen's Wood (44). Wormwood Scrubs (25).

Kent: Chipstead Lake, 48 on Jan 18th.

Surrey: Arbrook Common (12). Ashted Common (20). Banstead Wood (28). Beddington Farmlands (21). Canons Farm (17). Lloyd Park, Croydon, 49 on Apr 10th. London Wetland

Centre (54). Molesey Heath (18). West End Common (12).

In Lond: Hammersmith Cemetery, 32 on Jan 13th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 30 on Apr 10th. Regent's Park, 40 on Mar 12th. Victoria Park, 33 on Apr 1st.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Status: regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

The peak numbers for this species coincided with very bad weather in late January, with many flocks moving south. Of the records of 200 or more birds, 75% were in January. The cumulative day total of 1,192 over Staines Moor on January 22nd was the highest count since 1977. Although numbers dropped off after this there were still some counts of a hundred or more in early April. The last was on April 24th before a single very late record on May 12th.

The first, very early, autumn record was four on September 4th in suburban Coulsdon. But there were no other records until October 9th, after which records were daily. The ever growing trend of watching for passage overhead picked up many birds moving through the area but passage seemed to be steady with the only big numbers recorded being 562 over London Wetland Centre in November. During the year as a whole there were 34 counts from (21 sites) of 200 or more birds this year, compared to 61 last year and 20 in 2011. There were very few high counts in Herts this year. High counts for each sector are given below.

Essex: Chafford Hundred, 432 on Jan 23rd. Rainham Marshes, 350 on Jan 21st.

Herts: Stocker's Lake, 150 on Feb 11th

Middx: Home Park, 362 on Jan 26th. Horsenden Hill, 450 on Jan 26th. Staines Moor, 1,192 over on Jan 22nd.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 200 on Jan 24th.

Kent: Littlebrook Lake, 350 on Jan 22nd. Northfleet, 2,000 on Jan 21st.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 526 on Jan 22nd, 477 on Jan 23rd. Canons Farm, 320 on Jan 29th and 330 on Feb 1st. Downside, 400 on Jan. 28th & 30th. London Wetland Centre, 562 on Nov 13th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, 300 S on Jan 23rd.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Status: common, but locally declining, breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The Breeding Bird Survey for London recorded a worrying 20% decline from 2012, and seven out of the ten sites where we had estimates for both years showed a decline. The regular survey of gardens in Croydon recorded them from 69% of participating gardens, slightly down on the 72% in 2012. Below are breeding records for sites where five or more were recorded (no. of territories/singing males in brackets), plus all Inner London breeding records and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (10). Mar Dyke Valley, 14 on Feb 4th. Rainham Marshes (6).

Herts: Northaw Great Wood (5). Rye Meads (9); 15 on Mar 24th. West End, 16 on Mar 24th.

Middx: Brent Res (17). Home Park (9). Horsenden Hill (16). Queen's Wood (11). Tottenham Marshes (11). Trent Park (6). Wormwood Scrubs (14).

Kent: River Pool Linear Park (6). Sevenoaks WR (11).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (7). Banstead Wood (12). Beddington Farmlands (7). Berrylands, 21 on Mar 10th. Canons Farm (6). London Wetland Centre (8). Molesey Heath (6). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (40).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (6). Regent's Park, 27 on Mar 5th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numbers were low at the start of the year with only two counts of 200 or more in the period January to February. There were counts of 300 on April 6th and 225 on 7th, but most had gone by mid-April, the last being singles at West Hyde on April 26th and Amwell NR on 27th.

The first returning birds were singles at Trent Park and at Vicarage Farm on September 24th. Birds were reported daily from September 28th, and October 10th and 12th were the peak days, with all the counts of 500 and above seen then as significant numbers flooded the country in the autumn invasion. The 2,750 west over Regent's Park were thought to a site record. Numbers were also higher at this end of the year with almost all the counts of 200 or more being in October or December. During the year as a whole there were 24 counts of 200 or more, half the number in 2012. All counts of 500 or more are listed below, along with the most notable counts for Inner London.

Herts: Rye Meads, 1,339 over on Oct 12th. Woodside, Hatfield, 560 over on Oct 12th.

Middx: Brent Res, 753 W on Oct 10th.

Surrey: Richmond Park, 880 WSW on Oct 10th. Thorpe Water Park, 1,700 over on Oct 10th.

In Lond: Camden Town, 50 over on Oct 10th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 50 on Apr 7th.

New Oxford St, 400 over on Oct 10th. Regent's Park, 2,750 W on Oct 10th, 220 on 11th, 170 on 24th.

Redwing. (Andrew Moon)





Mistle Thrush. (Mick Southcott)

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Status: common breeding resident.

The Breeding Bird Survey in London showed a 29% decline this year. This is strange following last year's 37% increase, but there has been a 52% long-term decline from 1995-2012.

As usual most of the high counts were in summer or early autumn, with the highest three being between July 11th and September 12th, and many sites recording their annual peak in mid or late September, a month or two later than usual. Below are breeding records for sites where three or more were recorded (no. of territories/singing males in brackets), plus all Inner London breeding records and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (3). Mar Dyke Valley (4). Wanstead Flats, 14 on Aug 28th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 50 on Aug 29th. Cassiobury Park (3). Stanstead Abbots, 20 on Jul 21st.

Middx: Home Park (3). Horsenden Hill (3). Wraysbury Res, 28 on Jul 11th.

Kent: Darenth Lakes (8). Greenwich Park (6+); 15 on Sep 12th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, 25 N on Sep 12th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (20).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2); 15 on Apr 9th. Larkhall Park, Stockwell (1). Regent's Park (6); 11 on Mar 7th.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor, but increasing breeder.

Though obvious enough when singing, Cetti's Warblers can be very unobtrusive at a site, making recording difficult. With frequent bigamy and singing by both sexes taking place, quantifying breeding numbers is especially tricky; observers' best estimates are shown. A general decrease was evident; in numbers of sites, numbers of records and overall numbers of birds. The numbers of territories reported from Rainham is appreciated after last year's request for estimates from the bigger sites. Records are summarised for Essex, Herts and Kent.

- Essex:** Belhus Woods CP, present most of year with peak of four singing. Dagenham Chase, recorded from Jan 1st to early May, with four on Apr 13th and May 5th, then two on Sep 27th. Ingrebourne Valley, recorded all year with a peak of 26 singing in March. Mar Dyke Valley, one or two throughout the year with three on Oct 15th. Netherhall GP (2); five singing on Jun 23rd. Rainham Marshes (21). Walthamstow Res, one on Dec 1st was the first since 2010. Also recorded at Barking Bay, Cornmill Meadows, Fishers Green, Grange Waters, Hall Marsh Scrape and Hooks Marsh Lake.
- Herts:** Amwell NR (3). Cassiobury Park, one singing on Apr 18th & 22nd was only the second for the park, the first being in 1997. Hilfield Park Res, a fem ringed on Apr 28th. Maple Lodge NR, one on Feb 19th and up to two October to December. Rye Meads, present throughout the year with a high count of ten on Aug 4th. Seventy Acres Lake, up to two in early January, recorded on a few dates in April, with three on Apr 22nd. Stocker's Lake, up to two most of the year. Also recorded at Bury Lake, Mill End and Troy Mill Lake.
- Middx:** Broadwater Lake, one on Apr 24th. Bushy Park, one on Jul 31st, Aug 27th & 28th and Sep 16th. Harmondsworth Moor, singles on May 18th and Oct 6th. Staines Moor, one on Jan 25th, two on Feb 7th, singles on eight dates in October and November. Stanwell Moor, singles throughout the year with three on Apr 22nd and Nov 2nd. Wraysbury Res, one on Oct 6th.
- Bucks:** Heron Lakes, one on Apr 17th, two on Apr 21st. Horton GP, one on Apr 28th, Sep 5th and Nov 20th. Old Slade Lake (1), a barely fledged juv being fed by an adult on Aug 10th. Wraysbury GP, one on four dates between Mar 20th and Sep 12th, two on Sep 30th.
- Kent:** Crayford Marshes, recorded throughout the year, a maximum of five singing on Dec 17th. Crossness (6+); recorded throughout the year. Dartford Marshes, recorded on a number of dates between February and July with a peak count of four on Apr 25th, followed by one on Dec 9th, two on Dec 31st. Swanscombe Marshes, recorded throughout the year with five on Nov 8th. Also recorded at Littlebrook, Littlebrook Lake, Northfleet, Sevenoaks WR and Thamesmere West Lake.
- Surrey:** Leg O Mutton NR, one on Jun 6th. London Wetland Centre (8+), breeding confirmed with juvs seen; ten on Apr 6th. Thorpe Water Park, one on Jan 4th.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Status: scarce passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

A slightly better year with around 30% more records than 2012, and the first bird of the year turning up at the more usual date of April 13th. There were at least another 23 recorded before the end of the month, including the first Inner London record since 1997. After July, just two were seen in August and three or four in September, the last of which was at Totteridge Valley on the 29th. Territorial estimates and all other records are given below (no. of territories in brackets).

- Essex:** Barking Bay, one on Apr 20th. Fishers Green, one on Apr 29th. Fishers Green Island, one on Jun 5th. Ingrebourne Valley, singles on three dates; Apr 15th, May 4th and Jun 5th. Lippitt's Hill, none at this previously regular site. Rainham Marshes (1). Sewardstone Marsh, one from Apr 13th-14th. Tylers Common, one on Apr 16th.
- Herts:** Amwell NR, one singing from Apr 24th-30th, two on the 28th. Bowyer's Water, singles on Apr 29th and May 9th. Hatfield Aerodrome, one on Apr 20th. Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 19th. Rye Meads (2). Stocker's Lake, one on Apr 20th.

Middx: Brent Res, one on Apr 28th. Grovelands Park, one flushed on Apr 18th. Park Farm, one on Aug 10th. Parkside Farm, one on Jul 1st. Potters Bar, one on Jun 4th. Rammey Marsh, one on May 19th, Jun 5th and Jul 26th. Staines Moor, one on Apr 15th & 20th. Stanwell Moor, one on 12 dates from Apr 15th to May 19th. Totteridge Valley, one from Apr 20th to May 7th then one flushed on Sep 29th. Wormwood Scrubs, one on Sep 16th.

Kent: Botany Marshes, one on Apr 24th. Crayford Marshes, one on Apr 18th. Crossness, one on Apr 19th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, singles on Apr 20th and Sep 22nd. Bookham Common, one on May 31st. Canons Farm, one on Sep 18th & 24th. Chertsey Meads, one on May 6th. Cobham, one on Apr 27th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Apr 21st was just the third record for the park.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Status: common and widespread migrant and breeding summer visitor.

March arrivals have been the norm in recent years, but this year's immigration proved to be a much later affair with the first bird not being recorded until April 12th, though birds then streamed in daily, peaking in the fourth week of April. Breeding numbers in the UK vary a lot from year to year but appear to be stable (BTO website); however, this year appears to have been a good one in London. Rainham Marshes carried out a breeding survey and found 92 territories there and Rye Meads found 55 compared to 37 in 2012. There were 33 records in September but just four in October, with the latest at Rye Meads on October 19th. Below are breeding records of two or more (no. of territories in brackets) and all records for Inner London.

Essex: Netherhall GP (5). Rainham Marshes (92). Walthamstow Res (7).

Herts: Amwell NR (11+). Rye Meads (55). Tyttenhanger GP (2).

Middx: Tottenham Marshes (3). Stanwell Moor, four trapped on Sep 21st.

Kent: Botany Marshes (3). Greenwich Peninsula (2).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre (2); six on Sep 23rd.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Apr 15th, 24th & 26th. Regent's Park, singles on May 1st & 16th and Jun 16th.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Status: rare summer visitor and passage migrant.

This year two singing males were reported at Rainham Marshes during June, following one last year. Perhaps this is a sign of things to come. Breeding was last confirmed in London in 2001 (two sites), though it may also have occurred in 2002. Over the past ten years this bird has become scarcer in London (six records, compared to 19 in the previous decade).

Essex: Rainham Marshes, two singing males between Jun 8th-21st (HV, AT, DSm, NC, RHB, JKA *et al*).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

Comparing recent years, the arrival of Reed Warbler seems to be slipping later and the first arrivals this year were on April 16th at several sites. Passage continued over the next



*A rare bird in London, this is one of two singing male Marsh Warblers discovered at Rainham Marshes. Breeding was not confirmed for this sensitive species.
(Dominic Mitchell - www.birdingetc.com)*

few weeks, peaking around the end of April and the beginning of May. Breeding season records are often hard to interpret but came from 54 sites, not quite as good as last year's 63 but still good compared to recent years (2011; 43, 2010; 36). Autumn migration seemed to start around early August; Beddington Farmlands recording 30 on August 10th, but slowed to a trickle after the third week of September. There were five October records from four sites: Amwell NR, Beddington Farmlands, London Wetland Centre and Rye Meads. The last of the year was at Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath on November 6th. Last year's request for breeding estimates was heeded, with just four sites reporting 342 territories between them. Below are breeding records of two or more (no. of territories in brackets) and all records for Inner London.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (5). Grays Gorge (2). Mar Dyke Valley (7). Orsett Fen (2). Rainham Marshes (159). Walthamstow Res (17). Wanstead Park (2). Warren Gorge (3).

Herts: Amwell NR (3). Beech Farm GP (5). Hatfield Aerodrome (4). Rye Meads (83). Tyttenhanger GP (2+).

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (28). East India Dock Basin (6). Hampstead Heath (2). Home Park (2). Horsenden Hill (8). Kempton NR (4). Tottenham Marshes (4). Staines Moor (3). Stanwell Moor, of over 50 birds trapped or re-trapped during the summer one had originally been ringed at the same site on May 27th 2008.

Kent: Crossness (c20). Dartford Marshes (4+). Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park (5+). Sevenoaks WR (8).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (17). Esher Common (5). Hersham GP (2). London Wetland Centre (72). Richmond Park (6). South Norwood CP (3+).

In Lond: Battersea Park, one on May 25th. Canada Water, one on Jun 20th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1). Regent's Park (2). Rotherhithe (2). St James's Park (1). Victoria Embankment Gdns, one on May 22nd. Victoria Park, one on May 4th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Status: common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant, increasingly common and widespread in winter.

There were a lot more reported in January this year (135 compared to 38 last year), particularly in the Surrey area. But numbers at the end of the year were similar to last year. Telling early migrants from winterers is a difficult task, however a few new sites started reporting birds from about the third week in March and spring migration appeared to peak around the third week of April. Though the Breeding Bird Survey shows a 153% increase in London from 1995-2012, UK figures show a 19% decrease since 2012. Reports from sites where we have data from 2012 and 2013 also suggest numbers were lower this year. The Croydon Garden Survey reported Blackcaps from 59% of gardens in 2013 (up from 53% in 2012). Breeding records of five or more (no. of territories in brackets), high autumn counts and a summary of records for Inner London are given below.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (14). Lion Gorge (7). Mar Dyke Valley (20). Orsett Fen (7). Rainham Marshes (13). Roding Valley Meadows NR (16). Walthamstow Marsh, 30 on Sep 8th. Walthamstow Res (11). Wanstead Flats, 30 on Sep 12th. Warren Gorge (5).

Herts: Beech Farm GP (9). Northaw Great Wood (5). Rye Meads (34); 50 on Jul 27th.

Middx: Hampstead Heath, 40+ on Sep 13th. Home Park (18). Horsenden Hill (25). Queen's Wood (8). Tottenham Marshes (18). Totteridge Valley (10+).

Kent: Lullingstone Park (12).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (7). Ashted Common (25). Banstead Wood (28). Beddington Farmlands (15). Canons Farm (7). Farthing Downs (5). Happy Valley (11). Kings Wood (10). Lloyd Park (10). London Wetland Centre (24). Molesey Heath (21). Moorhouse (6). Riddlesdown (8). The Ledges, Esher (5). Tooting Common (5). West End Common (10). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (c80).

In Lond: Battersea Park (3). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1); 12 on Apr 26th. Regent's Park, peaks of 22 on Apr 24th & 25th and 15 on Aug 26th. St James's Park (1). Records also from Bethnal Green NR, Brockley NR, Buckingham Palace Gardens, Burgess Park, Fulham, Hammersmith Cemetery, Holland Park, Larkhall Park, Mile End Park, Rotherhithe and Victoria Park.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first arrival was on April 16th at Roding Valley Meadows NR and birds arrived daily from April 18th. Spring passage was prolonged and peaked in the second half of May. Breeding was noted at 37 sites, with 65+ this year, similar to 2012 (38 and 64+ respectively). Thirteen sites recorded Garden Warbler in September with the last being at Netherhall GP on the 21st. Below are all breeding records (no. of territories in brackets), and a summary of all records for Inner London.

Essex: Fishers Green Island (1). Netherhall GP (1). Orsett Fen (1-2). Rainham Marshes (1). Wanstead Flats (1). Wanstead Park (1-2).

Herts: Amwell NR (1). Beech Farm GP (2). Garden Wood (1). Maple Lodge NR (1). Northaw (1). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (1). Rye Meads (10). Stocker's Lake (1). Symondshyde Great Wood (2). Tyttenhanger GP (1).

Middx: Coppetts Wood (1). Darlands Lake (1). Fir & Pond Woods (1). Home Park (1). Park Farm (1). Stanwell Moor (1). Totteridge Valley (1). Trent Park (3).
Kent: Sevenoaks WR (5). Woodlands Farm (1).
Surrey: Arbrook Common (2). Ashtead Common (4). Banstead Downs (1). Beddington Farmlands (2). Headley Heath (1). Limsfield Chart (1+) London Wetland Centre (1). Molesey Heath (2). Richmond Park (2). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (16).
In Lond: Regent's Park, one from Apr 26th-27th, two on 30th, two on May 15th; 12 records in autumn with a peak count of four. Victoria Park, one on Sep 7th.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

A slightly later arrival this year with the first birds not being recorded until April 17th at both Mar Dyke Valley and Brayside Farm, passage peaking around ten days later. Breeding records were back to 2011 levels after a decline last year. Autumn passage began in mid-July and trickled on to September. There were just three October records: from Wraybury GP on the 1st, Regent's Park on the 6th and Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park on the 29th. The latter was probably of an eastern race. Given the resurgence of interest in, and the number of eastern birds that are being reported in Britain in late autumn, perhaps observers should be looking out for them in the London area. All breeding records (no. of territories in brackets), some high autumn counts and all records for Inner London are given below.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (2). Chafford Hundred (1). Mar Dyke Valley (1). Princes Gate (1). Rainham Marshes (3). Wanstead Flats (2); eight on Sep 8th.
Herts: Beech Farm GP (2). Brookmans Park (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (2). Rye Meads (2).
Middx: Alexandra Park (1); six on Aug 19th. Brunel University (2). Brent Res (2). Coppetts Wood (1). Horsenden Hill (1+). Kempton NR (1). Park Farm (1). Parkside Farm (1). Plumridge Farm (1). Rammey Marsh (1). Stanwell Moor (1). Ten Acre Wood (1). Tottenham Marshes (5). Totteridge Valley (4+). Vicarage Farm (1). Wormwood Scrubs (4). Yeading Brook Meadows (1).
Kent: Albany Park (1). Woodlands Farm (1).
Surrey: Ashtead Common (1). Banstead Wood (1). Beddington Farmlands (2). Ewell (2+). Farthing Downs (1). Ham Lands (1). London Wetland Centre (1). Riddlesdown (1). Tolworth Court Farm (1).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Apr 26th, singles on Apr 30th and May 6th; one to two from Aug 19th to Oct 6th, which was the latest autumn date here ever.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

For the second year running London has produced a January record of Common Whitethroat, this time at Sidmouth Park, Leyton on Jan 26th. In both years, there had been no records after the previous October and neither bird was reported after these brief January sightings. Passage started in early April with birds at West Ham Park on the 6th and Rainham Marshes on the 7th. A week later and arrivals became daily, peaking at the end of April/beginning of May. Breeding reports just about held up after last year's drop, though some Surrey sites were badly hit by the cold spring, notably Wimbledon

Common & Putney Heath where breeding territories were down from 42 in 2012 to 23 this year. There were plenty of September records but just one in October, at Walthamstow Marsh on the 5th. Below are breeding records of ten or more (no. of territories in brackets), some high counts and a summary of records for Inner London.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (16). Mar Dyke Valley (14). Netherhall GP (20). Rainham Marshes (67). Wanstead Flats, 30 on Aug 8th.

Herts: Beech Farm GP (15). Rye Meads (30).

Middx: Brent Res, 25 on Aug 17th. Horsenden Hill (17). Lake Farm CP (10). Tottenham Marshes (16). Totteridge Valley (30+). Wormwood Scrubs (10); 30 on Aug 21st.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, at least six singing on Apr 20th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, 36 singing on Apr 25th. Foots Cray Meadows (17). Greenwich Park, a pair bred here for the first time in living memory.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (40). Canons Farm (14). Molesey Heath (19). Richmond Park (16). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (23).

In Lond: In spring, there were passage records from Burgess Park, Hammersmith Cemetery, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Regent's Park, Rotherhithe, Russia Dock Woodland and Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. Autumn passage records came from Mile End Park, where a family party was seen on Jul 16th, and Regent's Park with a series of records from mid-August and throughout September.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Status: rare breeding species, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Still remains an amber list species due to a large decline in the 1960s after severe winters, since when it has made a steady recovery.

Just one record this year, continuing a run of three poor years. There have been no records in the breeding season since 2007.

Surrey: Richmond Park, singles on Nov 9th (SR) & 16th (HTB) and Dec 9th (PAy) were presumably all the same bird.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

There were two records this year, after one record last year and none in 2011. The past decade has seen 11 birds recorded in the London area with only three blank years. The October date is typical with nine of the previous 18 records being in October, but the November record is less usual. The October bird was calling from a Lime tree; familiarity with the distinctive call could lead to even more being found in the future.

Yellow-browed Warbler dates 1990-2012: 18 records, 19 birds

Month	Feb	Sep	Oct	Nov
No. of records	1	6	9	2
No. of birds	1	6	10	2

Middx: Lavender Gardens, Enfield, one on Oct 3rd (RMC).

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, one on Nov 6th (GH).

Yellow-browed Warbler remains a rare bird in London, and requires dedicated grilling of roving tit flocks during suitable conditions in late autumn. Knowing the very distinctive call is also helpful. (Chris Gooddie)

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Status: scarce passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

This species seems to be hanging on, with nine spring and five autumn records. This is more than last year when there were only five records in spring and perhaps three in the autumn. The last confirmed breeding record is from as long ago as 1996.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Apr 23rd and from 27th-29th. Hilfield Park Res, one from Apr 17th-19th. Stocker's Lake, one on Apr 19th (only seen in the Middx sector of this site).

Middx: Alexandra Park, singles on Apr 25th and Sep 6th. Brent Res, one on Aug 3rd. Hampstead Heath, one on Aug 18th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one from Apr 24th-25th. Epsom Common, one on May 16th. Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Recreation Ground, one on Jul 29th.

In Lond: Hammersmith Cemetery, one on May 3rd. Regent's Park, one on Aug 20th. Russia Dock Woodland, one from Apr 24th-25th.



Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Status: common and widespread breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, and increasingly widespread in winter.

Unlike the garden habitat favoured by wintering Blackcaps, Chiffchaffs are more usually associated with damper locations. There were more records this year; birds were recorded at 47 sites during January and February (41 last year) with a high of 17 birds at Troy Mill Lake/Broadwater Lake on January 11th. During November and December birds were even more widespread, being seen at 74 sites (55 last year), though the highest number was just seven at R Wandle: Carshalton Ponds-Wandsworth on December 28th. There were Inner London wintering records at four sites in the first period and three in the second.

Spring passage seems to have begun around the end of the first week in March and became more noticeable by the end of that month. The Breeding Bird Survey for London suggests a long term increase with a more recent decrease in Chiffchaff numbers. There was an increase of 166% from 1995-2012 (UK 88% over same period) but a 27% decline from 2012 to 2013 in London. Of the nine sites where we have breeding records for both years, our figures suggest a decline, with six decreasing, two increasing and one staying the same. Peak passage in the autumn was during September though the highest number was 50 at Roding Valley Meadows NR on August 28th.

Below are breeding records of five or more (no. of territories in brackets), some high autumn counts and a summary of records for Inner London.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (7). Mar Dyke Valley (9). Netherhall GP (8). Rainham Marshes

(9); 21 on Sep 20th. Roding Valley Meadows NR, 50 on Aug 28th. Walthamstow Res, 20 on Sep 15th. Wanstead Flats, 40 on Sep 1st & 19th.

Herts: Rye Meads (17); 30 on Sep 14th.

Middx: Brent Res, 25 on Aug 31st. Hampstead Heath, 20 on Sep 15th & 21st. Horsenden Hill (11), 15 on Sep 12th. Staines Moor, 20 on Sep 18th. Tottenham Marshes (19). Totteridge Valley (12+). Wormwood Scrubs (9).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, ten on Apr 20th.

Kent: Footh Cray Meadows, 13 singing on May 8th. Sevenoaks WR, 27 on Aug 28th.

Surrey: Arbrook Common (5). Ashted Common (9). Banstead Wood (14). Beddington Farmlands, 20 on Sep 1st. Esher Common (5). Lloyd Park (6). London Wetland Centre, 40+ on Sep 12th. Molesey Heath (15). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (c40).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, recorded on Jan 13th & 18th, Feb 14th and in April with a high count of six on 11th & 17th. Regent's Park, one recorded in January, then records Apr 10th to May 6th and Jul 29th to Oct 30th with one on Dec 6th. Records also from Bankside SE1, Battersea Park, Brockley NR, Buckingham Palace Gardens, Camden Town, Fulham, Holland Park, Mile End Park, Paddington Green, St James's Park, St James's Square and Victoria Park.

SUB-SPECIES: Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis*

Status: rare winter visitor and passage migrant.

Two records this year, both in Herts, and the first since 2009. A report in *LBR* for 1984 may be the first record. There have been 48 records from 1990-2012 but 36 of these were from 1990-1999. It would be interesting to know whether this slump was real or a reflection of its previous ambiguous status. January and December records are typical, although 18 of the previous 48 birds arrived in November (see table below). A review of their current status in 2010 (*British Birds* 103: 320-338) gave the main month of arrival as November, so London records fit this pattern.

Siberian Chiffchaff arrival dates 1990-2012: 48 records, 48 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	14	1	2	4	1	18	8

Herts: Rye Meads, one from Jan 3rd-5th (TS). Stocker's Lake, one from Dec 6th-7th & intermittently from 22nd-28th (RHa *et al*).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant, declining as a breeding species in the London Area and UK-wide which has caused it to be amber-listed.

For the fourth successive year there was a winter record, at Troy Mill Lake on January 11th, which is the first January record. The first migrant of the spring was at Ewell on March 28th though it was over a week before the next birds arrived and migration proper started. Larger numbers appeared at the beginning of the third week of April. Breeding records declined slightly again this year. Autumn passage peaked at the end of August and there were only small numbers after the middle of September with just three records in October: at Wraysbury GP on 1st, Purley Downs on 9th and Sevenoaks NR on 20th. Two

mixed singers (Chiffchaff/Willow Warbler) were reported, at Warley Place NR and West Ewell; we continue to treat these as Willow Warblers. Below are all breeding records (no. of territories in brackets), some high counts and a summary of records for Inner London.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (3). Broadfields Farm (1). Epping Forest (1). Ingrebourne Valley (4). Lippits Hill (3). Netherhall GP (1). Orsett Fen (2). Rainham Marshes, 15 on Apr 14th. Walthamstow Marsh, 20 on Aug 23rd.

Herts: Amwell (1). Beech Farm GP (5). Broxbourne Woods (1). Cuffley (1). Essendon (1). Essendonbury (1). Gobions Wood (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (5). Hilfield Park Res (1). Rye Meads (3); 18 on Aug 11th. Stanstead Abbots (1). Symondshyde Great Wood (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Woodoaks Farm (1). Woodside (1).

Middx: Alexandra Park (1). Grovelands Park (1). Hampstead Heath, 25 on Aug 25th. Park Farm (1). Strayfield Road (1).

Bucks: Wraybury GP, six on Apr 20th.

Kent: Foots Cray Meadow, 15 on Apr 15th. Lullingstone Park (2). Sevenoaks WR (1+); 16 on Apr 17th.

Surrey: Ashted Common (1). Banstead Downs (1). Barwell Court Farm (1). Beddington Farmlands, 15 on Apr 20th. Dulwich Park, c60 on Apr 15th. Epsom Common (1). Farthing Downs (1). Headley Heath (1). Holmethorpe SP, 23 on Apr 15th. Limpsfield Chart (1). London Wetland Centre, 21 on Apr 19th. Mitcham Common (1). Richmond Park (1). R Wandle: Carshalton Ponds-Wandsworth, 45 on Apr 15th. Wandsworth Common, 20+ on Apr 20th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, two on Apr 13th & 20th. Buckingham Palace Gardens, two on Aug 15th. Burgess Park, one on Aug 25th. Elephant & Castle, one on Apr 15th. Hammersmith Cemetery, one on Apr 19th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, recorded from Apr 9th-26th, with a maximum of nine, then singles on May 24th and Jun 25th. Regent's Park, recorded from April 10th to May 14th with peak of 20 on Apr 18th; autumn passage from Jul 29th to Sep 13th, with a peak of 20 on Aug 20th. Rotherhithe, four on Apr 15th, two on 16th and seven on 20th. Russia Dock Woodland, three on Apr 20th. St James's Park, one on Apr 18th. Victoria Park, singles on Apr 15th & 17th, at least six on 19th, two on Sep 7th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Status: breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were 161 territories reported this year (226 in 2012). The decline of 29% was very similar to that shown by BBS data for England (32%), for which the preceding cold winter is likely to be responsible. However, the decline in London may not be as great as suggested since variations in reporting will affect the totals (eg, there was no breeding count at Richmond Park where 18 pairs were found in 2012). There was little change in a survey carried out by the Croydon RSPB Group where they were reported from 30 participating gardens (38%, the same as last year). Territory totals and peak counts for each sector are given below, plus records of two or more pairs/singing males (nos. in brackets) and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: Seven territories. Wanstead Park (2); 15 on Feb 15th.

Herts: 29 territories. Rye Meads, 22 on Jan 5th. Northaw Great Wood (9+).

Middx: 31 territories. Brent Res, seven on Dec 26th. Enfield (2). Horsenden Hill (4-5).

Queen's Wood (1-2). Trent Park (3); seven on Mar 18th and Nov 12th. Vicarage Farm (2). Walpole Park (2).

Bucks: Black Park, 20 on Nov 18th.

Kent: Nine territories. Greenwich Park (4). Lamorbey Park, ten on Feb 12th.

Surrey: 75 territories. Banstead Wood (10). Berrylands, 13 on Sep 7th. Esher Common (2). London Wetland Centre (2). South Norwood (2). Sanderstead (10). Stambourne Woodland Walk (2). West End Common (2). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (31).

In Lond: Ten territories. Recorded from 15 sites with six pairs at Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns and single pairs at Hammersmith Cemetery, Mile End Park, Regent's Park and St James's Park.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Status: scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare breeder.

Following the high numbers at the end of 2012, numbers remained high at the start of 2013, but were lower in the latter half of the year. There was no evidence of breeding this year. Essex, Middx and Surrey were the most favoured counties as shown in the table below.

Firecrest	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Totals
Jan-Mar no. of sites	9	0	10	0	4	9	1	33
Oct-Dec no. of sites	7	0	6	1	4	6	1	25
Jan-Dec no. of sites	16	3	12	2	9	13	2	57

During January to March, there were nine sites with birds reported for a prolonged period: Banstead Downs, Bedfords Park, Leyton Flats, Middlesex FB, Regent's Park, Sydenham Hill Wood, Trent Park, Wanstead Park and Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath. Most records relate to single birds but there were three wintering in Regent's Park and two at six other sites.

There was little evidence of passage with eight records in March, nine in April and three in May that relate to singing birds (Copped Hall on 14th, Black Park on 17th and Essendon on 29th). There was no evidence of breeding and none were reported between June and August.

The first bird of the autumn was in Gilbert Slade, Epping Forest on September 3rd with another bird seen in Regent's Park on the 8th and 20th. From October, there were nine sites with birds reported for a prolonged period: Banstead Downs, Grovelands Park, Leyton Flats, Leyton Jubilee Park, Middlesex FB, Oxleas Wood, Trent Park and Wanstead Park. All of these sites had up to two birds, except Trent Park and two were seen at three other sites.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Status: declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Reported from 29 sites in spring, with the first on April 27th at Staines Moor. Most records were single birds that were sometimes seen on more than one day and involved a minimum of 33 birds (44 last year).

There were three confirmed breeding pairs and one possible breeding pair in Herts. Last year, there were six breeding pairs. Early June records were likely to be late passage birds but later birds might have related to breeding birds (Loudwater on 14th, Lullingstone

Park on 20th and Eynsford on 21st). In July, they were seen at six sites in Herts (only one was a breeding site).

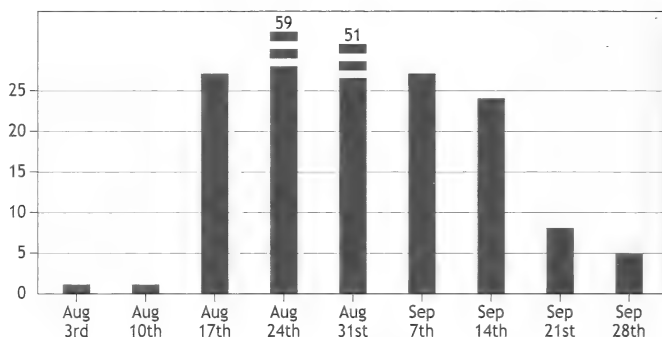
In autumn, the first returning bird was probably on August 8th at Blackheath with the last on October 3rd at South Norwood CP. The birds were reported from 55 sites with many staying for more than one day. A total of about 203 were recorded, with a peak between August 26th and September 3rd. Last year, autumn passage involved about 319 birds. The chart below shows the autumn weekly totals.

Spotted Flycatcher

Weekly autumn totals

Key

■ Number recorded in 2013, week commencing



All breeding season records are given below (no. of pairs in brackets), number of sites in spring/autumn and peak counts by sector and all Inner London records.

Essex: Spring four sites, autumn 15 sites. Wanstead Flats, five on Sep 4th.

Herts: Spring six sites, autumn seven sites. Amwell NR (1). Hatfield Park (1); five on Sep 8th. Verulamium Park (1).

Middx: Spring six sites, autumn 18 sites. Fir & Pond Woods, seen on five dates between May 16th and Jun 5th. Lake Farm CP, five on Sep 12th.

Kent: Spring five sites, autumn four sites. Greenwich Park, two on Jun 7th, 8th & 10th.

Surrey: Spring six sites, autumn nine sites. No site reported more than one.

In Lond: Battersea Park, one on Sep 3rd (the first record for five years). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on May 21st. Regent's Park, one on May 11th & 12th; in autumn, regular from Aug 19th to Sep 20th with a peak of three on Aug 21st & 22nd.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers.

There were seven spring records this year, one fewer than last year. The first was on April 15th, a male at Dulwich Park and the second the next day, a female at Wanstead Flats. On April 19th, there was a male at Bury Lake and the following day, a male at Cranford Park and a female at Kempton NR. On April 27th, there was a male at Amwell NR, which was still present the following day. The last spring sighting was a female at Wormwood Scrubs on April 28th.

The first birds of the autumn were on August 20th at Regent's Park and Wanstead Flats. At the latter site, there were a further seven sightings in August and September with two on August 24th and 28th. Other sites with birds present on more than one day were Greenwich Peninsula (two on August 25th and one on 28th) and Regent's Park (one on

August 20th, three on 21st, one on 22nd and 28th). Sites with a single bird in August were Leyton Flats on 21st, Ham Lands on 23rd, Hampstead Heath on 24th, Collier Row on 25th, Maylands GC, Romford on 26th, Tyttenhanger GP on 27th and Banstead Wood on 29th. In September, after one at Trent Park on 3rd, there were singles at Wanstead Flats with the last of the year on 18th. It is difficult to know how many birds were involved at Wanstead Flats but there could have been five. Using this figure, there were about 20 birds on autumn passage (16 last year).

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Status: uncommon autumn and winter visitor, very rare breeder.

Bearded Tits were seen in Inner London for the first time this year since the Inner London boundary was set up in 1929. The two females were both ringed at Rye Meads on November 10th 2012 and they were seen, and their rings read in the field, in January 2013 at Hyde Park. However someone saw two there on December 11th 2012 and so it is assumed that they had been there continuously from that date. The two at Regent's Park after this were assumed to be the same birds. One of these was then trapped at Belton Marshes in Norfolk on August 17th.

There were records from ten sites this year with birds seen at eight sites in the first winter period and at seven sites in the second winter period. A pair bred at Rainham Marshes. Long-staying birds were at Hyde Park (January to February) and London Wetland

These Bearded Tits were perhaps the LNHS stars for 2013, appearing as they did in such a central part of the Capital and being seen by so many non-birders, intrigued at the attention focused on a tiny reedbed in Hyde Park. One of the birds sported a metal ring, which led to the discovery that they had been ringed at Amwell. (Jonathan Lethbridge)



Centre (January to April). All records are given below, summarised in some cases.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Jan 7th and Mar 31st, one pair had two broods with a family party first reported on Jun 19th and on many subsequent dates in July and August; they remained until Sep 18th. There were then no records until November (10th, 16th & 17th). Walthamstow Res, one on Oct 24th.

Herts: Amwell NR, two females on Feb 20th, a fem on Nov 9th, a male on Dec 12th & 20th. Rye Meads, two females on Feb 20th were presumed to be the birds at Amwell NR, four on Oct 18th.

Middx: Brent Res, male from Jan 2nd to Feb 9th.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, one on Dec 9th. Swanscombe Marshes, one on Jan 1st.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, up to two seen on many dates from Jan 5th to Apr 19th, singles from Nov 3rd-4th, two on 5th and one on Dec 8th.

In Lond: Hyde Park, two females in Diana Memorial reed bed from Jan 11th to Feb 17th, two females on Nov 1st. Regent's Park, two females on Feb 18th & 19th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Status: common and widespread breeding resident.

There were at least 216 territories reported this year, down from 354 last year. All sectors showed a decline but it was particularly marked for Herts (35 down from 112). But for sites where we have data for both 2012 and 2013 there is little sign of change and there was little change in the regular survey carried out by the Croydon RSPB Group where they were reported from 71 participating gardens (91% against 88% last year). The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 26% decline for England. Regular reports of breeding would be welcomed. Territory totals and peak counts for each sector are given below, plus records of three or more pairs/singing males (nos. in brackets) and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: 27 territories. Belhus Woods CP (3). Grays (3). Grays Gorge (3). Mar Dyke Valley (5); 50 on Sep 3rd. Rainham Marshes (6).

Herts: 35 territories. Amwell NR, 40 on Jun 22nd. Hilfield Park Res, 40 on Nov 1st. Northaw Great Wood (3). Rye Meads (14).

Middx: 50 territories. Brent Res (8). Home Park (6). Horsenden Hill (3-5). Vicarage Farm, 26 on Sep 21st. Wormwood Scrubs (5).

Kent: Ten territories. Foots Cray Meadows (3). Sevenoaks WR, 30 on Jan 17th.

Surrey: 91 territories. Ashted Common (3). Canons Farm (5). London Wetland Centre (16). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (60); 70 on Aug 26th. Worcester Park, 40 on Jun 17th.

In Lond: Three to four territories and reported from eight sites. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 45 on Jan 21st. St James's Park (2-3). Victoria Park (1).

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

There was a marked fall in the number of territories/pairs reported (441 down from 503), which might have reflected heavy mortality during the preceding cold winter. However, changes between sectors were inconsistent with increases reported in Essex, Kent and Surrey with a large fall in Herts, which dominated the overall total. Vagaries in reporting are likely to be responsible and a better picture is provided by the Breeding Bird Survey

in London, which showed no significant change between 2012 and 2013. They were reported from all but one garden in the survey carried out by the Croydon RSPB Group. Territory totals and peak counts for each sector are given below, plus records of 15 or more pairs/singing males (nos. in brackets) and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: 49 territories. Bedfords Park, 100 on Sep 11th. Belhus Woods CP (21).

Herts: 102 territories. Bricket Wood Common (15). Newgate Street, 60 on Oct 2nd. Northaw Great Wood (35). Rye Meads (20).

Middx: 92 territories. Brent Res, 74 on Dec 26th. Home Park (32). Perivale Wood, only 80 young ringed, compared with 152 last year. Queen's Wood (35-37).

Kent: 33 territories. Greenwich Park (25+). Sevenoaks WR, 57 on Nov 24th.

Surrey: 161 territories. Ashted Common (42); 64 on Apr 19th. Banstead Wood (15). Canons Farm (25). London Wetland Centre (21).

In Lond: Reported from Buckingham Palace Gardens, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2+), Larkhall Park, Stockwell (3). Regent's Park (1+) and 38 on Mar 25th, and Victoria Park.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

The number of territories/pairs reported was 452 (418 last year). Like Blue Tit, it is under-reported. There was a large increase in Essex and a large decrease in Herts, highlighting the vagaries of reporting. The Breeding Bird Survey in London showed no significant change between 2012 and 2013. They were reported from 73 gardens (94% against 99% last year) in the survey carried out by the Croydon RSPB Group. Territory totals and peak counts for each sector are given below, plus records of 15 or more pairs/singing males (nos. in brackets) and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: 65 territories. Mar Dyke Valley (18); 64 including 42 juvs on Jun 25th. Belhus Woods CP (15).

Herts: 113 territories. Northaw Great Wood (12); 46 on Jul 4th. Rye Meads (36).

Middx: 77 territories. Brent Res, 51 on Dec 26th. Home Park (24). Perivale Wood, 70 young ringed, almost identical to 71 in 2012. Queen's Wood (34-37).

Kent: 28 territories. Greenwich Park (23). Sevenoaks WR, 28 on May 1st.

Surrey: 164 territories. Ashted Common (16). Banstead Wood (20). Beddington Farmlands (29). Canons Farm (20). Kingston-upon-Thames, 39 on Apr 1st. London Wetland Centre (33).

In Lond: Reported from Buckingham Palace Gardens, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (4+), Larkhall Park, Stockwell (1). Regent's Park, 20 on Mar 25th, and Victoria Park.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Status: common breeding species.

The number of territories/pairs showed little change (124 compared with 131 last year) yet there was an increase in Middx and declines in Essex and Herts. There was little change in a survey carried out by the Croydon RSPB Group where they were reported from 59 participating gardens (76% against 79% last year). The Breeding Bird Survey shows an 11% decline for England between 2012 and 2013. All breeding records of two or more (nos. in brackets) are given below, together with peak counts for each sector and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: One territory. Weald Park, seven on Apr 28th.

Herts: 12 territories. Coopers Green Lane (7). Hatfield Aerodrome (2). Northaw Great Wood (3). North Mymms Park, 20 on Dec 14th.

Middx: 30 territories. Fir & Pond Woods (2). Horsenden Hill (2-3). Queen's Wood (3-5). Stanmore (2); ten on Jul 1st. Tottenham Cemetery (2).

Kent: Four territories. Greenwich Park (3). Manor Farm, eight on Aug 20th.

Surrey: 70 territories. Banstead Wood (10); 13 on Sep 5th. Canons Farm (3). Esher Common (4). South Norwood (2). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (45).

In Lond: Reported from Buckingham Palace Gardens; Hammersmith Cemetery; Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, six singing on Apr 9th; Paddington Green; Regent's Park; St James's Park, family party seen on Jun 14th.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Status: localised and declining breeding resident and scarce winter visitor.

Birds were reported from 27 sites with 20 being between March and July (12 in 2012). This year, breeding was confirmed at Northaw Great Wood and may have occurred at Selsdon Woods, but there were no reports from Bottom Wood and Broxbourne Woods where breeding was probable in 2012. At Sevenoaks WR, they were seen regularly throughout the year and may have bred. Of the 20 potential breeding sites, eight relate to birds seen on a single day. Birds were reported from 18 sites in Surrey (an increase from five last year); from two sites in Essex after a complete absence last year and an additional site in Kent, Knockholt Pound. In contrast, birds were only reported from four sites in Herts compared with 15 last year. So some hopeful signs but no evidence that the long-term decline (The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 31% decline for England between 2002 and 2012) has changed. A summary of records for all sites is given below.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, one on Jun 23rd. Rainham Marshes, one on May 6th.

Herts: Amwell NR, seen in January, February, March, April and December with three on Mar 14th. Cassiobury Park, one on Jun 27th. Northaw Great Wood, seen throughout the year with a maximum of five on May 10th and juvs on Jul 19th. Stocker's Lake, one from Feb 5th-21st. Wormley Wood, one on Nov 28th.

Kent: Knockholt Pound, a pair on Mar 30th. Sevenoaks WR, one throughout the year.

Surrey: Banstead Wood, one from Sep 4th to Dec 18th with two on Dec 15th. Bookham Common, one in January, February, April, May and October. Box Hill, two on Apr 1st. Chapel Bank, two on Apr 26th and one on Dec 11th & 25th. Coulsdon, one in observer's garden during July, August, September and November. Epsom Common, one on Jan 31st. Farthing Downs, one on May 23rd. Headley Heath, one on Mar 20th & 25th. Hutchinson's Bank, one on Feb 27th, Mar 5th & 28th and Jul 24th. Juniper Bottom, up to four in March. Juniper Hall, one on Apr 27th. Kings Wood, one on Feb 28th and in an adjacent garden in July and December. Malden Rushett, one on Jan 3rd. Mickleham, up to six in March and two on Nov 9th. Norbury Park Farm, three on Jan 17th and two on Mar 13th. Sanderstead, one in observer's garden on Mar 18th. Selsdon Woods, up to two from January to April and in adjacent gardens throughout the year. Walton Heath, three on Sep 20th.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Status: common breeding resident.

There were at least 92 pairs/territories reported this year, which was similar to last year (96 pairs) despite no estimate from Richmond Park where there were 24 pairs in 2012. This total is undoubtedly an underestimate as birds were reported from 211 sites, which does not include gardens, in a survey carried out by the Croydon RSPB Group in which they were found in 41 participating gardens (53% down from 62% last year). The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 9% decrease for England between 2012 and 2013. There was an unusual nesting site in Harrow on the Hill where a hole in a house has been used for the past three years. Territory totals, numbers of breeding pairs and the peak counts are given below for each sector, plus breeding records of two or more (nos. in brackets), and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: 25 sites, one pair. Weald Park; seven on Apr 26th.

Herts: 56 sites, ten pairs. Cassiobury Park (3). Northaw Great Wood (3); 14 on Apr 26th.

Bucks: Two sites. Black Park, four on Dec 25th.

Middx: 47 sites, 27 pairs. Little Beechill Wood (2). Queen's Wood (5-8). Stanmore (2). Trent Park (2); seven on Mar 18th and Dec 26th.

Kent: 18 sites, eight pairs. Bexley Woods (2). Foots Cray Meadows (2). Greenwich Park (4). Lamorbey Park, four on Mar 18th.

Surrey: 61 sites, 44 pairs. Banstead Wood (10). Canons Farm (2). Sixty Acre Wood (2). Sydenham Hill Wood, seven on Jan 23rd. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (23).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2). Regent's Park, one on Jul 23rd, 26th & 29th.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Status: common breeding resident.

There were at least 69 pairs/territories reported this year, down from 108 last year. The decline may reflect changes in reporting (only 'breeding' was reported from Richmond Park where there were 23 territories in 2012) but none were reported from Essex and Kent, which is alarming. The Breeding Bird Survey reports a 22% decline in England for 2012-2013 as well. There was a large increase at Banstead Wood from three to ten territories. They were reported from a total of 137 sites (82 between March and July), which may be more indicative of their status. Any observations on changes at particular sites would be very welcome. Territory totals, number of breeding pairs and the peak counts are given below for each sector, plus breeding records of two or more (nos. in brackets).

Essex: 18 sites, no pairs. Dagnam Park, three on Apr 6th. Larks Wood, one on Mar 7th but no longer considered regular.

Herts: 44 sites, 11 pairs. Amwell NR (3). Northaw Great Wood (2); ten on May 10th.

Middx: 27 sites, 15 pairs. Home Park (3). Queen's Wood (4-7). Trent Park, seven on Mar 5th.

Bucks: Three sites, no pairs. Black Park, two on Nov 18th.

Kent: 13 sites, no pairs. Sevenoaks WR, five on Mar 20th and Apr 8th.

Surrey: 31 sites, 41 pairs. Banstead Wood (11); six on Sep 5th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (27).

In Lond: The only records came from Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns where there were two pairs and one brood seen.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*

Status: rare vagrant.

There were no records this year. Additional records below for 2006/7 and 2011 have been included after being accepted by the BBRC.

2006/7 Alteration

Essex: Rainham Marshes, three from Dec 22nd 2006 to Mar 27th 2007, rather than two as previously published (SCw *et al*).

2011 Addition

Essex: Rainham Marshes, two adults from Feb 7th-17th (HV *et al*).

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Status: rare passage migrant, most often in May.

One record this year, the first since 2010. It arrived in July which is an unusual time. Of the previous 33 records, none were in July (see table below).

Golden Oriole arrival dates 1990-2012: 33 records, 33 birds

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
No. of records	1	29	2	-	-	1

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, a fem or 1st-summer male flew SE towards Staines Moor at 13:08 on Jul 2nd (CDRH).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Status: rare passage migrant.

Two records this year, one in May and one in September, making it the best year since 2008 when there were also two records. May records are less common, only five of the previous 31 records have been in May (details in chart below).

Red-backed Shrike

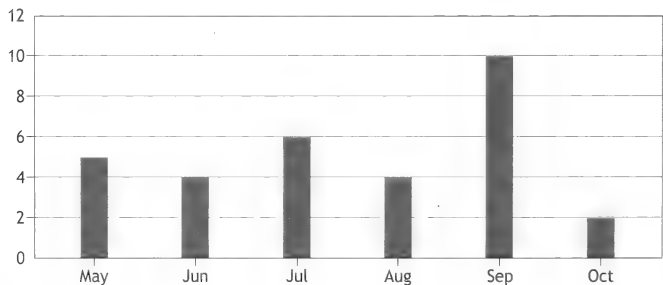
Arrival months

1990-2012

31 records, 31 birds

Key

■ Number recorded in each month



Bucks: Colnbrook, a 1st-winter on Sep 24th (CDRH).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, a male from May 25th-26th (SF *et al*).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Status: rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

This year saw one record in October, making a total of 25 records since 1990. The table below

shows the arrival dates of these records, October being a typical month for one to appear. All have been passage birds except for 1991-92 which was the last overwintering record.

Great Grey Shrike arrival dates 1990-2012: 23 records, 23 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov
No. of records	4	0	1	2	1	9	6

Herts: Rye Meads, one on Oct 18th (TS).

Jay Garrulus glandarius

Status: common breeding bird, the resident population boosted by immigrants in the autumn and winter.

The notes below list all records with evidence of two or more breeding pairs (no. of pairs in brackets) and some higher counts. There were reports from 13 sites in Inner London, an increase from last year, and all are given below.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (5). Ingrebourne Valley, eight on Jan 8th. Mar Dyke Valley (2); 12 on Jul 22nd including two broods of three and two. Wanstead Flats, eight on Sep 23rd. Waterworks NR, seven on Sep 20th.

Herts: Cassiobury Park, ten on Apr 9th with eight displaying in one tree. Eastbury (3). Frogmore Lakes, seven on Mar 31st. Hilfield Park Res, eight on Apr 20th. Maple Lodge NR, five on Jan 16th. North Mymms Park, seven on Sep 21st. Northaw Great Wood, seven on Oct 25th. Rickmansworth (3); six on Apr 30th. Rye Meads, seven on Apr 13th. Stocker's Lake, five on Apr 22nd. West End, five on Oct 26th.

Middx: Cranford CP, six on Dec 3rd. Home Park (4); 11 on Dec 30th. Horsenden Hill, 11 on Dec 14th. Kensal Green Cemetery, ten on Oct 5th. Queen's Wood (5-7). Trent Park, seven on Oct 12th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, five on Mar 7th.

Kent: Chipstead Lake, seven on Nov 12th. Darent Lakes, seven on Sep 27th. Greatness Pits, five on Dec 8th. Manor Farm, five on Aug 20th. Sevenoaks WR, 11 on Oct 30th.

Surrey: Ashted Common (5); 13 on May 3rd. Berrylands, nine on Mar 6th. Canons Farm (2). Lloyd Park, Croydon, 12 on Sep 21st. London Wetland Centre (7). Molesey Heath (2). Riddlesdown, nine on Nov 8th. South Norwood Lake, eight on Nov 1st. The Ledges, Esher (2). West End Common (3).

In Lond: Bankside, one on Oct 31st. Battersea Park, two on Oct 15th. Buckingham Palace Gardens, one on Aug 15th and Sep 12th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, six on Apr 11th, single birds during the year. Kilburn, one on Oct 5th flying over Kilburn High Rd. Park Road NW1, one on Aug 24th. Primrose Hill, one on Nov 16th. Regent's Park, three on Feb 14th. St James's Park, one on Sep 2nd feeding with flock of pigeons. St John's Wood, one on Nov 16th. St John's Wood Church Grounds LNR, one on Jan 5th. Southwark Street SE1, one on Oct 9th. Victoria Park, five on Nov 2nd.

Magpie Pica pica

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Large groups were seen in the winter. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 28% increase in London from 1995-2012. High counts and breeding counts of two or more are given below,

except for Inner London, where all breeding counts are given.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (6); 30 on Mar 19th. Mar Dyke Valley (6); 49 on Dec 27th. Mardyke Causeway Bridge, 50 recorded in a two-hour Atlas count on Apr 7th. Waterworks NR, 60 on Nov 25th.

Herts: Beech Farm GP (2). Brickendonbury, 21 on Mar 14th. Cassiobury Park, 15 on Mar 27th. Eastbury (6). Essendonbury (8). Hatfield (3). Hertford (6). Hilfield Park Res, 18 on Dec 29th. Lynsters Farm, 29 on Feb 23rd. Maple Lodge NR, 50+ on Oct 26th. Rye Meads (16); 34 on Feb 23rd, 36 on Dec 5th. Smug Oak GP (2). Stanstead Abbots (5). Tyttenhanger GP, 22 on Apr 21st. West Hyde, 20 on Jun 4th.

Middx: Brent Res, 34 in roost on Jan 12th. Home & Bushy Park (12). Horsenden Hill (2); 82 on Jan 6th in winter roost. Kempton NR, 59 on Jan 25th in roost. Lake Farm CP (2). Queen's Wood (1-3). Ruislip Lido, 100 on Nov 24th in roost.

Kent: Chipstead Lake, 27 on Dec 6th. Darenth Lakes, 70 on Jan 4th. Greatness Pits, 25 on Feb 24th. Greenwich Park, 19 on Feb 15th. Kemsing, 15 on Jun 28th. Littlebrook Lake, 74 on Feb 3rd. Sevenoaks WR, 38 on Mar 3rd. Swanley Park, 27 on Oct 2nd.

Surrey: Ashtead Common, 30 on Jan 22nd. Beddington Farmlands, 30 during January. Berrylands, 31 on Jul 21st. Esher Common (3). Kingston-upon-Thames, 65 on Dec 29th. London Wetland Centre (8). New Malden, 25 on Jun 15th. Norbury Park, 36 on Dec 6th. Peckham Rye Park (3). The Ledges, Esher (2). West End Common (3). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (20).

In Lond: Battersea Park, 50 on Jan 22nd. Buckingham Palace Gardens, seven on Dec 16th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, seven on Feb 25th. Regent's Park, 44 on Mar 12th. Stockwell (1). Victoria Park (1).

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant; much scarcer in the inner suburbs and city centre.

Jackdaws are the sixth most common species recorded in the BBS 2013 survey, and the breeding population has increased by 53% in England since 1995 (BTO website, BBS data). Not all counts make clear whether they are feeding, passage or roost counts but there seem to be fewer passage counts this year. High roost or feeding counts are given below, with some breeding records and all Inner London records.

Essex: Bedfords Park, 800 on Dec 3rd. Clay Tye Wood, for most of the year, 700 roosting birds. Mar Dyke Valley (13).

Herts: Amwell NR, 540 on Jan 19th flying S to roost. Brooksmans Park, 300 on Dec 7th flying S to roost. Cheshunt, 100 on Jan 1st. Colney Heath, 100 on Oct 18th. Frogmore Lakes, 180 on Mar 9th flying to roost. Hatfield, 500 on Feb 14th. Lynsters Farm, c300 on Jan 14th. Rye Meads, 745 on Feb 17th. Stocker's Lake, 500 on Feb 18th flying to roost. Tyttenhanger GP, 100 on Dec 6th. Woodoaks Farm (3).

Middx: Broadwater Lake, 1,000 on Nov 29th on roost. Ferny Hill Farm, 200 on Nov 19th. Home Park (31); 492 roosting on Jul 13th. Totteridge Valley (15); 200 flew to roost on Feb 16th.

Kent: Greatness Pits, 400 on Feb 3rd. Kemsing, 140 on Feb 21st. Sevenoaks WR, roost counts of 850 on Jan 9th and 1,800 on Nov 7th. Sundridge, 200 on Jan 30th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 800 in December. Hogsmill SW, 1,000 on Aug 3rd roosting. Kingston Cemetery, 400 on Oct 4th to roost. Norbiton, 400 on Aug 7th. Seething Wells, 323 on Sep 11th. Thorpe Water Park, 400 on Nov 7th. Truss's Island, 1,000 on Nov 9th flying to roost. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath, 450 over on Sep 29th.

In Lond: Hammersmith Cemetery, one on Feb 19th. HydePark/Kensington Gdns, two on Apr 2nd & 8th. Paddington Green, six NW on Mar 6th. Regent's Park, four NE on May 11th.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Status: common breeding resident in the outer part of the London Area, much scarcer in urban localities.

There were very few rookeries reported. From 1995 to 2012 there has been a 17% decrease in the UK breeding population (BTO website, BBS data). Regular counts from rookeries would be very welcome. For much of the London Area, Rooks are just occasional fly-overs, often being stated as scarce. Details of all rookeries are given below, with the number of nests in brackets, followed by some of the highest counts in each sector and the only record from Inner London.

Essex: Bedfords Park, 200 on Dec 3rd. Bulphen Fen, 110 on Jan 12th. Clay Tye Wood (60); 600 on Nov 18th and Dec 15th in roost. Nazeing (5). Orsett Fen, 120 on Feb 12th. Upminster, 130 on Jul 9th including 75 juvs. Watton's Green. 70 on Jul 13th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 65 on Dec 22nd. Brickendonbury, 30 on Jan 7th. Essendon, 39 on Dec 15th. Hertingfordbury, 35 on Mar 29th. Hunton Bridge (9). Lynsters Farm, 35 on Jan 20th. Northaw Great Wood, six flying over on May 10th. Tyttenhanger GP, 80 on Jan 1st. Woodside, Hatfield (1); 20 on Oct 12th and Nov 14th.

Middx: Bay Farm, 37 on Mar 3rd. Southall, 14 on Oct 13th. Ten Acre Wood, 11 on Oct 6th. Totteridge Valley, 60 on Nov 10th. All other records were of just one or two flying over.

Kent: Crockham Hill (38), an increase from 33 in 2012. Darenth Lakes, 30 on Dec 20th. Knockholt Pound (32). Lullingstone Park (15). Sevenoaks WR, 45 on Nov 7th.

Surrey: Beddington Park (4). Canons Farm, 16 on Feb 2nd. Holmethorpe SP, 25 on Feb 7th. Norbury Park, 70 on Jun 11th. Titsey (12). All other records were of just small numbers flying over.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one NE on Mar 19th.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Abundant throughout the London Area, this species is becoming more common in London. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 52% increase in London from 1995, slightly down from last year, whereas in the UK as a whole, there has only been a small increase of 17%. In a long-running survey of gardens in Croydon, it was reported in 87% of participating gardens in 2013 down from 91% in 2012. However, we receive relatively few records and more nesting counts would be welcome, especially from inner areas. More records counts from sites would also be welcome. All breeding records of five or more are given below, with number of nests/territories in brackets, together with the highest counts elsewhere.

Essex: Bedfords Park, 100 on Jan 1st. Orsett Fen, 144 on Dec 1st. Walthamstow Res (13), an increase from 2012. West Ham Park, 26 on Apr 6th.

- Herts:** Amwell NR 20 on Jan 27th. Brickendonbury, 30 on Jan 7th. Chess Valley, 35 on May 4th. Chiswell Green, 150 on Jun 11th. Eastbury (8). Elstree (7). Essendonbury (9). Great Amwell, 30 Aug-Sep. Hertford (6). Maple Cross (5). Oak Hill Park, 60 on Jul 30th. Rye Meads (7); 45 on Jan 12th. Tyttenhanger GP, 70 on Nov 30th. West Hyde, 31 on May 27th.
- Middx:** Home & Bushy Park, 75 on Aug 14th. Home Park (10), 128 on Apr 28th. Horsenden Hill, 1,282 in roost count on Jan 26th. Yeading Brook Meadow, 130 on Sep 1st.
- Kent:** Bayley's Hill to Weald, 90 on Nov 3rd. Crossness, 80 on Apr 24th. Cudham, 50 on Nov 14th. Danson Park, 68 on Apr 19th. Greatness Pits, 150 on Jan 5th. Sevenoaks WR, 80 on Jan 30th and Feb 16th.
- Surrey:** Ashtead Common (5). Arbrook Common (6). Beddington Farmlands, 168 in Feb. Biggin Woods, 100 on May 19th flying to roost. Clapham Common, 60 on Jul 21st. Hogsmill SW, 70 on Oct 12th. London Wetland Centre (5). Molesey Heath, 137 on Dec 22nd. South Norwood CP, 88 on Nov 29th. Walton-on-Thames, 58 on Jan 28th.
- In Lond:** Buckingham Palace Gardens, 46 on Aug 15th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (4+). Regent's Park, 35 on Mar 25th. Victoria Park, ten on Mar 2nd.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Status: scarce, but increasing visitor.

Reported from 48 sites this year. More pairs, rather than singles, have been seen but most records are still of single birds flying over. This year saw the first breeding record in the Kent sector of Inner London. All other records are given below.

- Essex:** Belhus Woods CP, one NW on Sep 22nd. Holyfield Hall Farm, one heard on Feb 28th. Ongar Park Wood, one on Mar 31st. Rainham Marshes, singles on Mar 18th and May 26th, two on Sep 19th.
- Herts:** Amwell NR, one flew over on Apr 6th, two soaring on Oct 6th. Bedmond, one on Aug 18th. Berrybushes Wood, one on Dec 15th. Borehamwood, one on Sep 24th. Broxbourne Woods, one on Mar 14th calling. Cassiobury Park, one over on Sep 18th. Cheshunt, one S on Feb 2nd. Garden Wood, two on Apr 13th. Hatfield, one over on Jun 13th. Hatfield Park, one on Dec 1st. Hilfield Park Res, one S on Jan 9th. Lynsters Lake, one on Oct 14th. Northaw Great Wood, two on Oct 4th. Rickmansworth, one N calling on Nov 10th. Rye Meads, one on Nov 23rd. Tyttenhanger GP, one E on Apr 13th, two NE on Oct 12th, one over on Dec 30th. Woodside, Hatfield, singles on Oct 12th and Dec 1st. Wormley Wood, two on Nov 28th.
- Middx:** Broadwater Lake, two N on Oct 5th. Staines, one W on May 4th.
- Bucks:** Iver Heath, two W on Oct 1st.
- Kent:** Site A, pair bred, raising two young. Crayford Marshes, two on May 3rd and two SW on Dec 26th. Crayford Marshes/Dartford Marshes, two S on Mar 6th and two SW on Mar 21st. Cudham, one on Oct 29th. Kemsing, three on Apr 11th. Northfleet, one on Apr 26th. Sevenoaks WR, one on Jan 2nd. Swanscombe, one S on Nov 29th. York Avenue, Sidcup, one NW on Jan 11th and two SW on Nov 7th.
- Surrey:** Banstead Wood, singles S on Jan 3rd and W on Feb 6th. Beddington Farmlands, one on Apr 7th. Canons Farm one over on Sep 15th. Coulsdon, one S on Jan 12th. Holmethorpe SP, one E on Jan 7th, singles on Jan 9th and Jun 25th. Juniper Bottom,

one on Nov 30th. Limpsfield Chart, singles on Sep 8th and Nov 16th. Mickleham, one on Mar 9th. Nutfield, one on Jun 25th. Reigate Heath, one on Mar 13th. Richmond Park, three on Dec 4th. Woldingham, one on Mar 28th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one S on Mar 25th was the second site record.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Status: common, but still declining, breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The London decline of the Starling continues, with the Breeding Bird Survey showing a 51% decrease in London from 1995 to 2012 (51% decline for UK). The regular Croydon garden survey recorded them in 85% of participating gardens this year, down from 98% in 1995. However, they are still seen in numbers across London with substantial flocks reported in autumn and winter. Passage over London was noticeable this year from October 19th to November 16th, the largest movements being on November 9th when 2,767 flew over five sites. We get few records of counts of breeding pairs and would welcome more so that we could monitor the decline. Some of the highest counts and migrating flocks are given below.

Essex: Breeding was reported at Corbets Tey, Grays, Hangman's Wood, Mar Dyke Valley, Tilbury and Walthamstow Res. Alexandra Lake, 700 on Oct 26th. Leyton Jubilee Park, 330 N on Nov 9th. Mar Dyke Valley, 685 roosting on Oct 29th. Rainham Marshes, 3,000 on Jan 2nd.

Herts: Breeding was reported at Bedmond, Cassiobury Park, Colney Heath, Goffs Oak, Hartham, Hertford, Lynsters Lake, Maple Cross, Rickmansworth, St Albans, Tyttenhanger GP, West End, Willowmead and Woodside, Hatfield. Amwell NR, 400 roosting on Dec 1st. Coursers Farm, c300 on Oct 13th. Rye Meads, 500 on Nov 16th.

Middx: Breeding was reported from Holly Hill Farm, Home Park and Staines. Brent Res, 4,490 over from Aug 26th to Nov 30th; peak of 405 on Oct 25th. Stanwell Moor, 500 to roost on Jun 10th. Tottenham Marshes, c650 on Sep 22nd. Totteridge Valley, 550 on Apr 1st. Wraysbury Res, 552 on Jun 6th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 310 on Apr 9th.

Kent: Breeding was reported at Blackheath, Dartford, Greenwich and Greenwich Park. Crossness, 300 over on Sep 8th. Greenwich Peninsula, 500+ on Jun 29th. Swanscombe Marshes, c800 on Aug 23rd.

Surrey: Breeding was reported at Richmond Park and Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath. Beddington Farmlands, 2,000 from January to March and August to September. Canons Farm, 500+ on Jan 29th. London Wetland Centre, 540 W on Nov 13th. QE II Res, 680 W on Nov 9th. Richmond Park, 1,050 W on Nov 9th. South Norwood CP, 634 W on Nov 9th.

In Lond: Battersea PS, 110 on Oct 1st. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 200 in January and February. Larkhall Park, Stockwell, 120 on Feb 11th. Wyvill Estate, Stockwell (4), numbers well down because holes on flats filled in.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

Status: rare vagrant.

This is only the eighth record for London and the first since 2003. The tables below show all the previous records. Five of those were adults, one a juvenile and one not aged, so this adult is typical. This is the second June record.



Carrion Crow. (Tony Coombs)

Rose-coloured Starling records 1961-2012: 7 records, 7 birds

Year	1961	1971	1978	1994	1996	2001	2003
No. of records	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Rose-coloured Starling arrival dates 1961-2012: 7 records, 7 birds

Month	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	1	1	2	1	1	-	1

Middx: Lower Edmonton, an adult in a garden on Jun 9th (JLN).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Status: breeding resident, declined severely since 1990s, and still showing a decrease in breeding populations.

The House Sparrow's decline has continued to cause concern in urban areas around the country, although since 1995 UK numbers have generally declined in the east, but increased in parts of western Britain; London however, still shows the greatest decline in breeding numbers. The Breeding Bird Survey showed a 70% decline in London from 1995 to 2012 and a 7% decline from 2012-2013. In the regular Croydon garden survey, they were only reported in 44% of participating gardens, down from 49% last year and 91% in 1995. There is clearly variation across the London Area with some sectors showing growth while others are still showing a decline; included below are some urban records of first sightings for some time. More breeding records, especially from urban areas, would be welcome. Below we list sites where breeding was reported, some of the largest counts, other records of interest and a summary of records for Inner London, with breeding counts in brackets.

Essex: Breeding was reported at Buckhurst Hill, Chafford Hundred, Corbets Tey, Grays, Mar Dyke Valley, Princes Gate and Rainham Marshes. Chafford Hundred, 107 roosting on Oct 2nd. Rainham Marshes, 120 on Jul 25th.

Herts: Breeding was reported at Beech Farm GP, Borehamwood, Coopers Green Lane, Elstree, Essendon, Hatfield Aerodrome, Hertford, Jersey Farm, Maple Cross, St Albans, Stanstead Abbots, Stocker's Farm, West End, Woodoaks Farm. Brookmans Park, 17 (the highest count for years) on Aug 18th. Coursers Farm, 50+ on Aug 18th. Stanstead Abbots, 45 on May 26th. West Hyde, 26 on Jun 4th. Woodoaks Farm, 27 on Sep 16th.

Middx: Breeding was reported at Fulham Sands End and Horsenden Hill. Alexandra Park, 30 on Aug 11th. Hampton, 24 on Aug 16th. Horsenden Hill, 40 on Jan 12th. Wormwood Scrubs, 50 roosting on Dec 29th, including an oddly plumaged fem with white eye rings, and bright flesh-coloured legs and beak.

Kent: Breeding was reported at Blackheath, Brookmill Park and Greenwich. Bexleyheath, 186 roosting on Nov 22nd. Blackheath (20). Chipstead Lake, 50 on May 30th. Darenth Lakes, 35 on Mar 14th. Deptford, 40 roosting on Sep 18th. Greenhithe, 30 on Aug 6th. Greenwich (76+), the result of a more extensive survey than previously. Northumberland Heath Recreation Ground, 173 on Jan 10th. Perry Street Farm, Crayford, 53 on Feb 18th. Riverdale Road, Erith, 30 on Jan 4th. The Mall, Bexleyheath, 40 on Jan 28th.

Surrey: Breeding was reported at Addlestone, Berrylands, Chessington, Cobham, Kingston-upon-Thames, Molesey Heath, New Malden, Norbury, Putney, Walton-on-Thames, West End Common and Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath. Berrylands, 82 on May 11th.

Kingston-upon-Thames, 100 on Mar 9th. New Malden, 101 on Jun 15th. Randalls Park, 45 roosting on Feb 14th. Rushett Farm, 50 on Jan 6th.

In Lond: Burgess Park, one on Apr 25th. Elephant & Castle, five on May 21st. Hammersmith Cemetery, a pair on May 3rd and a male on 26th were rare here. Handyside Street, NW1 (2); 15-20 on Jul 14th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singing male on Mar 5th was the first record since 2006. John Buckle Centre, SW8, 45 on Aug 30th. Larkhall Park, Stockwell (6). Laycock Street N1, 20 on Dec 11th. Regent's Park, six on Dec 14th. Roupell Street SE1, four on May 15th. The Borough, eight on Jan 28th. Tower of London, 20+ on Feb 28th. Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (2). Victoria Tower Gardens, one male on May 24th reported as rare here. Wyvil Estate, SW8 (6).

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Status: scarce breeding resident, confined to a few sites in London Area. UK population still recovering, following severe decline since the late 1970s.

Breeding continues at the two regular sites. But at Beddington Farmlands, the Bird Group reported that it was a very worrying year with only nine pairs (61 last year). There were only 18 broods and 42 young hatched from 11 broods (the others were not checked beyond the egg stage). In comparison, last year there were 342 young hatched from 115 broods. In the Coursers Farm/Tyttenhanger GP area at least eight pairs bred producing 16 broods and 40 young fledged. This is the same number of broods as last year but fewer young fledged than the 61 last year, making it the lowest productivity in the 15 years of monitoring. The tables below give the data for pairs and young at the two areas in previous years. Although there has been a lot of variation from year to year, this year's breeding at Beddington Farmlands was grounds for concern. There was just one record away from the two breeding areas, at London Wetland Centre. Peak counts are given below.

Tree Sparrow breeding 2010-2012

Year	2010	2011	2012
Beddington: no. of pairs	80	71	61
Beddington: young hatched	624	607	385
Herts: no. of pairs	26	11	6
Herts: fledged young	66	49	61

Tree Sparrow breeding 2000-2009

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Beddington: number of pairs	51	77	75	104	81	75	109	135	77	61
Beddington: young hatched	439	593	618	766	541	525	959	1110	445	447
Herts: number of pairs	-	-	-	6	14	22	-	7	16	27
Herts: fledged young	42	-	-	25	-	42	-	-	65	-

Herts: Colney Heath, peak count of three on Jul 20th. Coursers Farm, peak count of 20 on Oct 19th. Coursers Road, 30 on Aug 22nd around feeder and nearby fields. Tyttenhanger GP, 28 on Jun 25th, including young.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, peak count of 40 in April. London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 7th.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Status: common breeding resident, augmented by continental influxes in autumn and winter.

It is encouraging to see that there were 17 records of one hundred birds or more in 2013, compared with five in 2012, with notable passages of 478 at Rye Meads and 397 over Brent Res, both on April 6th. The main autumn migration was between October 14th and 30th. The Breeding Bird Survey in London shows a fall of 23% between 2012 and 2013 compared to the overall increase of 137% for 1995/2012. The BTO 2013 Garden BirdWatch found Chaffinches in an average of 37% of gardens, compared with 41% in 2012. The regular survey of gardens in Croydon reported them in 88% of participating gardens, the same level as in 2012. This compares with 65% in 1995. Breeding records of five or more territories and high counts are given below, summarised in some cases.

Essex: Dagnam Park, 100 on Apr 6th. Gallions Reach, 134 on Apr 6th. Leyton Flats, 152 on Apr 3rd. Rainham Marshes, 85 on Jan 23rd. Wanstead Flats, 100 on Apr 3rd.

Herts: Chess Valley (12). Lynsters Farm, 60 on Feb 20th, 50 on Apr 5th. Northaw Great Wood (10). Rye Meads (8); peak count of 150 in January. Tyttenhanger GP, 60 on Feb 2nd. West Hyde, 58 on Apr 30th. Willows Farm, 79 on Feb 9th.

Middx: Brent Res, 397 flew E on Apr 6th. Home Park (11). Horsenden Hill (11). Staines Res, 162 on Apr 6th. Totteridge Valley, 100 on Oct 14th. Whitewebbs Wood, c50 on Mar 30th. Wormwood Scrubs, 100 flew over on Jan 3rd and Mar 18th.

Bucks: Black Park, 100+ on Nov 18th.

Kent: Greenwich Park (9+); 60 over W on Oct 14th. Northfleet, 150 on Jan 21st. Sevenoaks WR, 125 on Oct 20th, 80 on 23rd. Sidcup, 100+ flew W on Oct 30th.

Surrey: Arbrook Common (5). Banstead Wood (21). Beddington Farmlands, peaks of 50 in January, 70 flying E in April. Canons Farm (25); peak counts of 300 on Mar 22nd and 100+ on Oct 15th and Nov 9th. Cheverells Farm, 60 on Mar 19th. London Wetland Centre (9); 310 flew W on Oct 30th. Richmond Park, 80 flew W on Oct 30th. West End Common (5).

In Lond: Hammersmith Cemetery, 17 on Jan 7th, two on Mar 8th, three on Apr 3rd and Dec 7th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 30 on Apr 3rd. Regent's Park, regular reports Feb 15th to Nov 13th with 30 on Feb 15th and 60 on Oct 30th. St James's Park, a young bird on Apr 13th and one singing on 15th. Stockwell, five on Feb 11th. Victoria Park (2).

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Status: regular autumn migrant and winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers.

Numbers were low at both ends of the year again although passage in late October was higher than last year. The highest count in January was four and the peak counts were 30 on March 20th and 20 on October 22nd. Eight were seen on Clapham Common on April 6th. The last in spring were three on April 20th at Holmethorpe SP, compared with the last on March 26th in 2012. The first of the autumn were not until October 11th with five at Beddington Farmlands, which was 11 days later than the first last year, after which there were regular records of small numbers until the end of December. There were only four counts of ten or more. Although the 2013 BTO Garden Birdwatch survey only found Bramblings in just 0.3% of London gardens, there were long-staying birds in April and in December at gardens in Herts and Surrey. Counts of two or more are given below, summarised in some cases.



Chaffinch. (Andrew Moon)

Essex: Bedfords Park, four on Jan 1st. Hatter's Wood, three on Jan 8th. Mayesbrook Park, two on Apr 4th.

Herts: Amwell NR, two on Feb 19th. Brookmans Park, up to four January to April. St Albans, two on Jan 12th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, two on Oct 16th. Brent Res, two on Nov 13th. Hampton, two on Jan 24th. Home Park, two on Nov 3rd.

Bucks: Thorney CP, two on Mar 27th.

Kent: Greenwich Park, two on Oct 14th. Lullingstone Park, 30 on Mar 20th. Northfleet, two on Jan 21st. Westerham, ten on Nov 28th. Sidcup, two over on Nov 9th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, five on Oct 11th. Canons Farm, one or two from Mar 16th to Apr 6th, up to seven from Oct 12th-22nd and one over in December. Clapham Common, eight over on Apr 6th. London Wetland Centre, 13 over on Oct 11th, three over on 14th, then singles on three other dates. Moorhouse, 20 on Oct 22nd, two on Dec 2nd. Scearne Bank, two on Nov 26th. Selsdon, two in a garden during November, and three daily in December. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, two or three on Oct 31st.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Winter flocks were again low, with no flocks of over 70 birds (one last year and seven flocks the year before). The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 13% decline from 2012-2013 in the UK. The regular Croydon garden survey showed them in 82% of participating gardens compared to 81% last year. (Unfortunately, this was incorrectly stated to be 90% in *LBR* 2012.) There were a surprising 48 birds in Regent's Park on September 20th. Breeding records of three or more (no. of territories in brackets) and counts of 25 or more are given below, and all Inner London records.

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, 30 on Jul 15th. Leyton Flats, 28 on Aug 13th. Loughton, up to six in a garden in August. Rainham Marshes (5); 30 on Nov 13th. Wanstead Flats, 50 on Aug 3rd, 30 on Nov 13th.

Herts: Beech Farm GP (6). Hatfield Aerodrome (3). Rye Meads (14). West End, 40 on Nov 23rd. Woodside, Hatfield, 25+ on Oct 12th.

Middx: Brent Res, total of 823 in passage over from Aug 11th to Nov 28th; peak of 58 on Oct 5th. Home Park (11). Horsenden Hill (5). Parkside Farm, 30+ on Oct 2nd.

Kent: Erith Cemetery, 25 on Feb 7th. Greenwich Park (3).

Surrey: Ashted Common (4). Beddington Farmlands (19). Berrylands, 25 on Mar 10th. Canons Farm (6). Hogsmill SW, 39 on Mar 17th. London Wetland Centre (15). Molesey Heath (13). Portsmouth Rd FB, 25 on Mar 30th. Seething Wells, 25 on Mar 30th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (c20).

In Lond: Archbishop's Park, four on Jan 27th. Bankside, one singing on Apr 12th & 15th. Buckingham Palace Gardens, one on Aug 15th. Burgess Park, one on Apr 25th. Hammersmith Cemetery, five records of one or two. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, peak of five on Apr 23rd. Regent's Park, one on Mar 12th & 25th, 48 on Sep 20th. Tower of London, two nest-building on Mar 28th. Victoria Park, two on Mar 2nd, one on May 4th, one singing on Jul 6th.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant, now common throughout the year.

Counts were generally similar to last year, but there were fewer high counts with only five flocks of one hundred or more compared with ten in 2012 and fourteen in 2011, and the peak count was only 200 compared with 300 last year. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a UK decline of 15% from 2012 to 2013. The BTO 2013 Garden BirdWatch also showed a decline in London gardens; they were reported in 49% of gardens compared with 54% in 2012. They were also only reported in 86% of participating gardens in the regular Croydon survey, down slightly from the high of 90% in 2012. These figures suggest that numbers may now be decreasing slightly, after the large increase since 1995. Breeding records of three or more (no. of territories in brackets) and higher counts are given below and some Inner London records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, 58 on Mar 19th, 51 on Oct 3rd and 54 on 25th. Gallions Reach, 55 on Jan 15th. KGV Res, 50 on Nov 23rd. Mar Dyke Valley (3). Rainham Marshes (13); 58 on Jan 19th, 62 on Nov 8th. Wanstead Flats, 56 on Sep 30th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 55 on Jan 11th. Rye Meads (5); 60 on Jan 26th, 50 on Nov 2nd. Tyttenhanger GP, 89 on Aug 18th.

Middx: Brent Res, 107 on Aug 10th. Bushy Park, 60 on Aug 7th. Home Park (9). Horsenden Hill (7+). Staines Moor, 90 on Aug 26th included 80 juvs. Ten Acre Wood, 60 on Aug 11th. Totteridge Valley, 130 on Sep 1st, 110 on 28th. Wormwood Scrubs, 60 on Jan 16th.

Bucks: Colnbrook Landfill, 50 on Dec 24th. Horton GP, 80 on Aug 4th. Q. Mother Res, 65 on Dec 15th.

Kent: Darenth Lakes, 55 on Sep 27th.

Surrey: Ashtead Common (3). Beddington Farmlands, 74 in January, 100 in July and August, 70 in November. Canons Farm (7). Hogsmill SW, 55 on Aug 11th. London Wetland Centre, 71 on Oct 30th, 67 on Nov 6th. Richmond Park, 60 on Oct 30th. Riddlesdown, 55 on Aug 23rd.

In Lond: Archbishop's Park, four on Jan 22nd. Bloomsbury, one singing on Jun 11th. Buckingham Palace Gardens, three on Aug 15th. Hammersmith Cemetery, 16 on Feb 10th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, peak of 30 on Apr 2nd. Nine Elms, one nesting on Apr 28th. Regent's Park, peak count of 25 on Mar 9th. St James's Park, one on Dec 16th. Victoria Park, peak count of 40 on Oct 2nd.

Siskin Carduelis spinus

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant; rare breeder although increasingly regular in summer.

This year they were much more plentiful in January, when there were 11 flocks of 100 or more at six sites. Numbers dropped in February although there were more reports of them at garden feeders then. These included 13 on garden feeders in Bricket Wood and 25+ on feeders at Brookmans Park.

Numbers at the end of the year were lower, with just two records of 100 or more in December. Over the whole year there were 15 flocks of 100 or more compared to only 11 last year. In Chiswell Green, birds visited the garden feeders from January 6th to April 28th. A bird in Cassiobury Park on April 8th was mimicking first the call of a Fieldfare and then a Chiffchaff. This year a pair were confirmed to have bred. A pair visiting a garden in Barnet (in our Herts sector) were joined by five juveniles in early June, so probably bred locally. Otherwise only a few birds were recorded from May to July, although a pair were at a feeder in Treverex in mid-June. The notes below record high counts for each winter period, other notable sightings and some Inner London records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, 60 on Feb 22nd.

Herts: Amwell NR, c60 on Jan 5th and 50+ on Nov 30th. Barnet, a pair with five juvs in a garden in early June probably bred locally. Bowyer's Water, 150 on Dec 4th. Colney Heath, 50 on Jan 6th & 19th. Maple Lodge, 100 on Jan 11th. Stocker's Lake, 50 on Jan 17th, 100 on Dec 26th.

Middx: Bushy Park, 50 on Feb 23rd. Staines Moor, 80 on Jan 28th. Trent Park, 50 on Jan 14th.

Bucks: Horton GP, 60 on Dec 25th.

Kent: Bluewater Shopping Centre, 60 on Mar 2nd. Darenth Lakes, 75 on Jan 4th, 150 on 20th. Foots Cray Meadows, 100 on Jan 7th. Sevenoaks WR, 120 on Jan 2nd, 200 on 19th, 125 on Mar 9th, 70 on Dec 15th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 50 on Jan 20th. Croydon, up to 38 on Apr 1st. London Wetland Centre, 50 on Jan 24th. Richmond Park, 100 on Jan 18th, 60 on Nov 12th, 50 on Dec 4th. The Ledges, Esher, 50 on Nov 10th.

In Lond: Bell St NW1, 18 on Feb 11th, 23 on 12th, 30 on Mar 19th. Camley Street Natural Park, ten on Jan 15th and 20 on Feb 25th. Hammersmith Cemetery, ten on Jan 1st. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, regular January to February with a peak of 15 on Jan 22nd; three records in April. Kilburn Grange Park, three on Jan 5th. Orchardson St NW8, five on Feb 28th. Paddington Green, 11 on Feb 28th. Regent's Park, 44 records from Jan 17th to Apr 25th with 20 on Feb 8th and six records from Sep 15th to Dec 6th, with peak count of six. Russia Dock Woodland, two on Apr 7th. Victoria Park, one on Mar 2nd.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Status: common but declining breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were 754 records this year, up on the 711 in 2012. There were similar numbers of large flocks as last year (27 of 100 or more this year, 25 last year) but the peak count was higher (625 compared to 300). There were 89 breeding pairs, a similar number to the 91 pairs in 2012. For the few sites where we have breeding counts for both years there is some sign of a slight drop in numbers, and a severe drop was reported at Wormwood Scrubs. All records of breeding (no. of breeding pairs, singing males/territories in brackets, summarised for Herts) are given below, high counts and all Inner London records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (3). Broadfields Farm (1). Mar Dyke Valley (1). Orsett Fen (1). Priors GC (2+). Rainham Marshes (32); 180 on Jan 23rd. Walthamstow Marsh (2). Walthamstow Res (1).

Herts: Four records of single pairs breeding. Beech Farm GP (3). Coopers Green Lane (2). Essendon (2). Hatfield Aerodrome (4). Tyttenhanger GP, 120+ on Aug 18th. West End (5).

Middx: Holly Hill Farm (1). Horsenden Hill (1). Osterley Park (1). Park Farm, Enfield (1). Parkside Farm (1). South Lodge Farm (1). Ten Acre Wood (2). Vicarage Farm (2). Wormwood Scrubs (3).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 30 on Feb 14th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, 120 on Jan 17th. Dartford Marshes (3). Greenwich Peninsula (1). Upper College Farm (2+).

Surrey: Canons Farm (3); 625 on Nov 10th. Farthing Downs (2). Molesey Heath (1). South Norwood CP (1).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Jan 24th, Feb 21st and Apr 3rd, with three on Mar 10th. Regent's Park, singles on Apr 15th & 18th and Sep 30th, with two on Mar 31st.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor; former breeding resident.

There were slightly fewer records this year (768) than in 2012 (924); there were no counts of 100 or more as last year, although there were 15 such counts in 2011. Numbers were low at the start of the year with peak counts of 47 in January and 30 in February. As last year there were several May records and one June record. Two on August 3rd were early returners; the next was on September 30th at Wimbledon Common, followed by one over Richmond Park on October 5th, then more general passage from 12th. Numbers at the end of the year were a little higher than at the start of the year with peaks of 60 in November and 53 in December. High counts and Inner London records (summarised for Regent's Park) are shown below.

Essex: Broadfields Farm, 30 on Feb 4th. Ingrebourne Valley, 30 in January, November and December. Leyton Flats, 60 on Nov 8th and 53 on Dec 13th.
Herts: Hertingfordbury, 50 on Jan 23rd. Rye Meads, 40 on Jan 5th. St Albans, 47 on Jan 13th.
Middx: Horsenden Hill, 25 on Jan 6th. Trent Park, 20 on Nov 12th.
Kent: Sevenoaks WR, 30 on Nov 27th. Woodlands Farm, 20+ on Mar 9th.
Surrey: Banstead Wood, 40 on Dec 1st. Canons Farm, 50 on Dec 1st. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, 20 on Dec 18th.
In Lond: Camley Street Natural Park, two on Aug 3rd and two on Nov 3rd. Haggerston Park, one on Jan 19th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Jan 6th, one on 14th, and one on Dec 29th. Regent's Park, peaks of seven on Mar 3rd and five on May 6th; no autumn records. Rotherhithe, one on May 6th and five on Nov 9th.

Mealy Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Status: scarce irruptive winter visitor.

Just 20 records from 15 sites were received this year, which is down on recent years. The total of 27 birds is much lower than the 98 birds in 2012, and the 94 birds in 2011. The most records, with birds on four dates only, came from both London Wetland Centre and Wanstead Flats, and there was no double-figure count from any site this year (the highest total was three at Banstead). The records were evenly split between the two winter periods with the last on April 22nd. The first record from the second period came on October 19th. All records are given below.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, one on Mar 19th. Broadfields Farm, one on Feb 4th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Feb 13th and two on Dec 1st. Leyton Flats, one on Dec 3rd. Wanstead Flats, one on Apr 22nd, two on Nov 6th, singles on Nov 14th and Dec 29th. Wanstead Park, one on Nov 17th.

Herts: Borehamwood, two on Apr 21st. Hilfield Park Res, one on Nov 3rd. Oxhey, one on Apr 6th. Panshanger, singles on Jan 30th and Apr 10th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, one on Feb 9th.

Kent: Bromley, one on Apr 15th.

Surrey: Banstead, three on Apr 14th. Hersham, one on Feb 10th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Jan 13th, Apr 13th, Oct 24th, Nov 12th & 13th, with two on Oct 19th.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Status: irruptive visitor, rare breeding species (usually following irruptions).

This year 87 reports were received from 49 sites, down from the 146 from 73 sites in 2012 which was a record year for this species. Birds were recorded in every month except September, with the peak numbers at the end of the year. Notable counts are given below.

Essex: Dagenham Chase, 12 on Jul 23rd.

Herts: Amwell NR, 16 on Feb 2nd and 15 on 6th. Broxbourne Woods, 20 on Nov 23rd and 40 on 30th, 38 on Dec 1st, 26 on 3rd and 15 on 8th.

Bucks: Black Park, 13 on Jan 17th and ten on 24th.

Surrey: Canons Farm, ten on May 22nd and 14 on Jun 2nd. Coulsdon, 13 on Jun 24th. Esher Common, ten on Nov 17th. Tattenham Corner, 17 on Jul 22nd.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Status: rare vagrant.

This was only the tenth record for London, the first since 2010 and the third September record. It was discovered early in the morning, was still present the next day and seen going to roost that evening but not seen again. The table below shows all the previous records.

Common Rosefinch records 1971-2012: 9 records, 9 birds

Year	1971	1986	1987	1992	1994	1995	1996	1997	2010
No. of records	1	1	0*	1	1	2	1	1	1

*ignores overwintering bird from 1986

Middx: Wormwood Scrubs, a juv from Sep 8th-9th (DJL *et al*).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Status: fairly common breeding resident.

There were 716 records from 170 sites this year, an increase on the previous two years. Of these nearly 10% came from Rye Meads alone. This species is rarely seen in large groups and not surprisingly just over 75% of records were of one or two birds only. The record from Hyde Park is the first there since 2010. Although there were only 27 breeding pairs, well down on last year's 55, there were records from 98 sites during the breeding season. All breeding records (no. of pairs/territories in brackets), summarised for Herts, are given below, together with high counts and all Inner London records.

Essex: Recorded at 30 sites. Belhus Woods CP (1). Dagnam Park, five on Jan 9th. Mansfield Park, five on Feb 2nd. Noak Hill, five on Dec 2nd. Pages Wood, five on Aug 2nd.

Although Bullfinch counts were up this year, confirmed breeding declined. (Andrew Moon)



Herts: Recorded at 49 sites. Beech Farm GP (1). Bernards Heath (1). Cassiobury Park (1). Essendon (1); eight on Dec 15th. Frogmore Lakes (1). Maple Lodge NR (1). Northaw (1). Northaw Great Wood (1). Radlett (1). Rickmansworth (1). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (1). Rye Meads (2). Woodside, Hatfield, seven on Jan 12th.

Middx: Recorded at 26 sites. Brent Res (1); five on Apr 7th. Horsenden Hill (7); five on Dec 7th. Ten Acre Wood (1). Trent Park, five on Jan 19th and Feb 13th. Wormwood Scrubs (1).

Bucks: Wraybury GP, one on Dec 4th.

Kent: Recorded at 16 sites. River Pool Linear Park, six on Jan 3rd. Scadbury Park, six on Oct 16th. Sevenoaks WR, seven on Jan 16th.

Surrey: Recorded at 44 sites. Ashted Common (1). Banstead Wood, 14 on Dec 31st and five on Aug 31st. Canons Farm, six on Feb 3rd and five on July 6th. Farthing Downs, six on Jan 22nd. Holmethorpe SP (1). Horton CP, five on Jan 25th. Riddlesdown, five on Nov 8th. Stokes Field LNR (1).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Apr 4th & 7th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Status: very scarce breeding resident; occasional passage migrant.

In March, an unprecedented flock appeared at Juniper Bottom, on the edge of our recording area. On March 9th, 12+ birds were reported but the next day there were reports of over 100, with one observer estimating the count as up to 130. There were still 110+ a week later and although counts then gradually dropped, there were daily reports until April 2nd followed by the last, still 14 birds, on 7th. Flocks as large as this have not been reported in London in living memory. Apart from these records, there were 11 singles seen at different sites and a few records from Bookham Common as usual. For the fifth year running they were recorded in Inner London. There were no breeding reports this year; the last ones were in 2008. All records are shown below.

Essex: Leyton Flats, one over on Nov 15th.

Herts: Stocker's Lake, one on Mar 6th. Wormley West End, one on Jan 26th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, singles N on Jan 16th and W on Oct 30th. Brent Res, one W on Oct 8th.

Kent: Foots Cray Meadows, one S on Apr 15th.

Surrey: Banstead Wood, one on Jun 2nd. Bookham Common, singles on seven dates from Jan 1st to Feb 8th. Juniper Bottom, seen daily from Mar 9th to Apr 2nd and then on Apr 7th (details above). London Wetland Centre, one W on Oct 11th. Tooting Common, one on Apr 13th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one N on Mar 31st.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor.

A return to a very average year after six records in both 2011 and 2012, with just one record on a typical date.

Kent: Blackheath, an excellent site record of a bird over the observer's garden on Jan 22nd (JCL).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Status: widespread but declining breeding resident, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were a minimum of 77 territories/singing males (83 in 2012) though there were several additional sites where birds were present during the breeding season. Nearly 40% of this total came from Herts, with a significant count from the Otford/Filston area in Kent and the return of territorial birds to Trevereaux in Surrey. All breeding records are given below (no. of breeding pairs/territories in brackets). For Essex and Herts peak counts are given; for other sectors all records are given, summarised in some cases.

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Apr 15th. Belhus Woods CP (1). Brook Farm (1). Codham Hall (1); recently fledged family group. Fishers Green (1). Great Myles (2). Ingrebourne Valley (1-2); 35 on Jan 31st. Nazeing (1). Netherhouse Farm (1). Orsett Fen (2+), two broods; 18 on Aug 2nd. Princes Gate (1-2). Rainham Marshes, one on Jan 7th. Wanstead Flats, singles on Jan 2nd, Feb 11th and Apr 13th. Thames Chase (1).

Herts: Bedmond (1). Bricket Wood (1). Brookmans Park (6). Chiswell Green (5). Chorleywood (1). Cole Green Tip (1). Coopers Green Lane (2). Coursers Farm, 18 on Feb 17th; present in breeding season. Essendon (2+). Hatfield Aerodrome (3+). Hatfield Garden Village (1). Maple Cross (1), three fledged young; c50 on Jan 16th. Potters Crouch (2), confirmed breeding. Radlett (1+). Rye Meads, 35 on Dec 28th. West End (1-2); 12 on Nov 23rd. West Hyde (2+); ten on Jun 25th.

Middx: Enfield Chase Area: Ferny Hill Farm, peak of 16 on Jan 17th; Holly Hill Farm (2); Plumridge Farm (1); Rectory Farm (1); Vicarage Farm (1-2); ten on Aug 19th. Hampstead Heath, two on Oct 29th.

Kent: Chipstead Lake, singles on Feb 27th and May 30th. Crayford Marshes, one on May 3rd. Darenth Lakes, one on Mar 14th. Kemsing, singles on four dates between Jan 12th and Apr 11th and on Nov 15th. Manor Farm (3). Otford to Filston (11). Sundridge, six on Dec 26th. Westerham, three on Apr 23rd.

Surrey: Banstead Wood, peak of eight on Sep 13th. Beddington Farmlands, two on Jan 19th & Feb 19th. Canons Farm (5); peak of 22 on Jan 3rd. Chessington, two on Jan 16th. Cheverells Farm, eight on Mar 19th and five on Apr 9th. Epsom Common, one on Apr 27th and two on May 16th. Farthing Downs (4). Holmethorpe SP, peak of 30 on Feb 7th. Horton CP, three on Jan 16th. Limpsfield Chart (1+). Malden Rushett, peak of three on Jan 16th. Moorhouse, singles on three dates between Jul 10th and Aug 13th. Norbury Park Farm, one on Jun 11th. Park Farm, Chessington (2). Ridlands (1), three in 2012. Rushe't Farm (2); c10 on Jan 6th. Searne Bank, one on Jul 6th. Tatsfield, seven on Mar 19th. Trevereux (3).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Status: fairly common but declining breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were more singing males/territories this year (160 compared to 114 last year) but this was mostly due to having a full count from Rainham Marshes this year. Again Essex, Herts and Surrey provided over 75% of breeding season records. All breeding records are given below (no. of breeding pairs/territories in brackets). For Essex and Herts peak counts are given; for other sectors all records are given, summarised in some cases.

- Essex:** Belhus Woods CP (2+). Dagenham Chase (3). Great Myles (2). Ingrebourne Valley, 30 on Jan 8th. Mar Dyke Valley (1). Netherhouse Farm, 17 on Jan 1st. Orsett Fen (2+). Rainham Marshes (46). Walthamstow Res (1).
- Herts:** Amwell NR (3); c20 on Jul 26th. Beech Farm GP (5). Coursers Farm, 12+ on Dec 3rd. Cromerhyde Farm, 15+ on Jan 17th. Croxley Common Moor (1). Essendonbury (3). Frogmore Lakes (1+). Hatfield Aerodrome (3+). Hilfield Park Res (1). Lynsters Lake (1). Maple Lodge NR (1). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (2+). Rye Meads (15). Stocker's Lake (1+). Tyttenhanger GP (2). West Hyde (1).
- Middx:** Brent Res (2). Broadwater Lake (2). East India Dock Basin (1). Enfield Chase Area: Parkside Farm (1), two juvs. Fir & Pond Woods (1). Home Park (1). Horsenden Hill (4), pair raised two young; six on Dec 13th. Kempton NR (1); 18 on Dec 8th. Lake Farm CP (3); 25 on Mar 25th. Staines Moor (4+); eight singing on Apr 7th. Stoke Newington Res (2). Ten Acre Wood (2).
- Kent:** Chipstead Lake (2). Crossness (4). Dartford Marshes (2); ten on Mar 20th. River Darent, Otford Road, two on Jun 26th. Sevenoaks WR (2). Sutcliffe Park (1-2).
- Surrey:** Beddington Farmlands (1); 11 in March. Chertsey Meads, nine on Jun 6th. Clapham Common, male on May 4th. Esher Common (1). Holmethorpe SP, up to three March to May. London Wetland Centre (5); seven on Oct 30th included five over SW. Molesey Heath (1). Richmond Park (20). South Norwood CP (1). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, 16 on Jan 22nd.
- In Lond:** Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one over on Mar 10th. Regent's Park, singles on Jan 23rd and Apr 13th-14th.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Status: declining and increasingly localised breeding resident.

Only recorded from six sites this year, down from 11 in 2012. The increased number of territorial males (ten compared to nine in 2012) was due to increases at Orsett Fen and Rainham Marshes. So overall, there is no sign of any change to their declining status in London. All records are given below, summarised in some cases, with number of breeding pairs/territories in brackets.

- Essex:** Barking Bay, one on May 19th. Orsett Fen (4); peak of 11 on Mar 14th. Rainham Marshes (2); ten on Jan 13th.
- Herts:** Rye Meads, one on Mar 9th. West Hyde (2+); six on Jul 26th.
- Kent:** Crayford Marshes (2); six on Mar 3rd.

APPENDIX I: ESCAPES

The following records relate to birds known, or presumed, to be of captive origin. In addition to those listed, there are fully-winged individuals of several species of wildfowl in collections such as those at St James's Park and Bushy Park.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Essex: Rainham Marshes, five on Feb 21st, two from May 5th-6th.

Herts: Bowyer's Water, one reported most months. Stocker's & Bury Lakes, one from Apr 13th-14th, Jun 23rd and then on several dates from Jul 17th to Dec 30th.

Middx: Ruislip Lido, one present most of the year.

Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*

Surrey: Ewell Court Pond, one on Oct 15th and Nov 10th.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Herts: Lynsters Farm, one on several dates from Feb 5th to Mar 1st. Maple Cross, one on Feb 25th. Stocker's & Bury Lakes, one on Jan 1st & 19th and Feb 27th.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on May 19th & 20th.

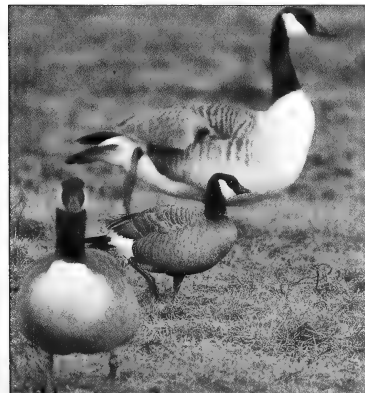
Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

Herts: Lynsters Farm, one on Aug 4th & 12th. North Met Pit, one on Jan 30th.

Middx: Kempton Water Works, one on Apr 13th.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Nov 6th, 7th, 9th, 12th & 20th. Walthamstow Res, one from 2012 present to Apr 28th and then from Jul 21st to Sep 1st, was reported dead on Sep 22nd. It had been here regularly since Jun 28th 2009.



Herts: Amwell NR, one on Mar 10th and Apr 1st and on several dates from Aug 19th to Oct 12th. Hertford, one on Nov 23rd. Wildhill, one on May 11th.

Middx: Kempton Park Racecourse, two on Feb 11th.

Kent: Crossness, one on Dec 1st & 10th. Sevenoaks WR, four on May 20th and one on Nov 13th.

Surrey: Hersham GP, two on Jan 10th and 27th. Island Barn Res, two on Jan 11th and one on Oct 9th. London Wetland Centre, one from Apr 12th-

Canada Goose (overleaf) of race minima, centre, at Stocker's Farm. (Andrew Moon)

19th. Painshill Park, one on Nov 10th. QE II Res, two on Jan 7th & 29th then one on Oct 5th & 23rd. Richmond Park, one on Apr 8th. Walton Res, two on several dates from Jan 5th to May 13th, then one on Jun 4th and Jul 21st.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on many dates from Jan 1st to Apr 23rd. Regent's Park, one on Feb 2nd.

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, one on Jan 16th & 28th and on Apr 15th & 22nd. Ingrebourne Valley, one from Jan 7th-15th and on Mar 9th. Mar Dyke Valley, one on Apr 23rd. Rainham Marshes, one from Jan 4th-10th, on Mar 26th and May 11th. It seems likely that one bird was involved in all these records.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Herts: Lynsters Farm, one of the *minima* race on Nov 29th. Also seen at Stocker's Lake, on Dec 7th and Stocker's Farm on Dec 17th.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Herts: Rye Meads, two from Aug 28th to Sep 14th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one from Jul 20th-25th was then found dead.

Cape Shelduck *Tadorna cana*

Essex: Walthamstow Res, one on Feb 2nd.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

Herts: Hertford, one on Jul 1st and Nov 9th & 23rd.

Middx: Bushy Park, a male on several dates from Feb 16th to May 26th. Hampstead Heath, a male on Dec 25th.

Kent: Sutcliffe Park, a male from Jan 8th-10th & 20th-23rd.

Surrey: Bookham Common, a leucistic fem on May 12th, a pair from Nov 4th-18th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Mar 10th.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Essex: Connaught Water, a male on Jan 4th, 15th & 21st, Jun 2nd, Nov 11th, 14th & 20th.

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys*

Essex: Connaught Water, a pair on Nov 30th, six on Dec 7th.

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

Essex: Connaught Water, one on Jan 4th and Feb 7th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, a fem from Jan 19th-20th.

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*

Essex: Connaught Water, a fem from Jan 15th-16th, Feb 12th, Oct 17th and Nov 20th.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Herts: Amwell NR, one on several dates between Feb 8th and Dec 22nd. London Colney, two on Dec 10th. Oxhey Park, one on Feb 9th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on several dates between Apr 6th and Aug 3rd.

Quail sp

Middx: Finchley, one picked up injured on Nov 13th was taken to a vet. From the photos of this bird it was hard to decide if it was a very late Common Quail or another species, so it appears here.

Common Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Essex: Hatfield Park, one on Apr 26th, two on May 12th, five on Aug 25th and one on Sep 8th. Tyttenhanger GP, singles on Apr 13th, 14th, 21st & 24th, Jun 23rd and Oct 1st. Woodside, Hatfield, one on Jun 1st.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

Herts: Newgate Street, singles on Jan 5th and May 11th, five on Sep 1st, singles on Oct 19th and Dec 8th. West End, one on May 27th.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Essex: Grey Goose Farm, one on Oct 22nd, seen later at Orsett Fen.

Surrey: Trevereux, a fem bred successfully with a Common Buzzard this year, after an unsuccessful attempt last year. Two hybrid young fledged.

Falcon sp

Surrey: Richmond Park, one on Dec 5th.

Blacksmith Plover *Vanellus armatus*

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 18th.

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Essex: Gloucester Rd E17, one on Mar 30th. Rainham Marshes, one on Aug 6th and Sep 12th.

Middx: Wormwood Scrubs, one from Aug 11th-12th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Jun 24th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Aug 28th.

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, one on Apr 6th.

Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla*

Essex: Walthamstow Marsh, one on May 4th.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

Herts: Borehamwood, eight on Feb 26th, 17 on Jun 24th and five on Dec 11th. Hilfield Park Res, one on May 5th.



Monk Parakeet. London has one of the UK's few populations of this introduced species.
(John Archer)

Middx: Bicentenary Gardens, Brunel University, one flying over on Jul 2nd was the observer's first site record. Isle of Dogs: Millwall Park, two collecting nesting material on Apr 24th; Mudchute Farm, seen most of the year to Sep 25th with peak of 20+ on Jan 4th; Undine Rd E14, 12 on Mar 3rd and six large nests in streets around here.
Kent: Greenwich Park, five flew around on Oct 30th before heading north, presumably to Mudchute Farm just across the river.

Blue-crowned Parakeet *Aratinga acuticaudata*

Kent: Kelsey Park, three on Jan 8th, two on Feb 5th, one on Apr 16th and three on Oct 2nd.

Blue-fronted Amazon *Amazona aestival*

Surrey: Stoneleigh, one on Jan 8th was reported to have been present for at least 18 months and was still here on Dec 9th.

Turaco sp

Essex: Wanstead Flats, one on Jan 6th.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Kent: Ladywell Fields, pair on Sep 18th.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Jul 15th.

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus*

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Dec 17th.

APPENDIX II: HYBRIDS

The following records relate to wild or feral hybrids. All are reported as described by the observers. **It would be helpful if observers could send photographs of hybrids, where available.** Records of hybrid Canada Geese and of Mallard are not reported here. All others are listed in order of the first-named species involved.

Barnacle x Canada Goose

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Jun 25th.

Shelduck hybrid

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, two flew E on Jun 24th.

Ruddy Shelduck x Shelduck

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Aug 12th. Beckton, one on Jan 6th.

Kent: Crossness, singles on Jan 1st and Jun 20th, two on Jun 25th, singles on Jul 27th & 30th, Aug 10th & 28th. One on Oct 5th was a different bird.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Jan 9th.

Aythya hybrids

Aythya hybrids are listed below under the described type, where such a description is given.

Pochard x Ferruginous

Bucks: Horton GP, male on Nov 17th was also at Wraysbury GP on Mar 2nd and Nov 18th.

Pochard x Tufted

Middx: Alexandra Park, one on Dec 19th.

Surrey: Thorpe Water Park, male on Jan 13th and Feb 17th with two on Dec 15th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two throughout the year. Victoria Park, male from Apr 17th-19th.

Ring-necked x Tufted

Surrey: Richmond Park, male from Mar 15th-16th.

Ferruginous x Pochard

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, male on Mar 20th and Apr 2nd; fem on Nov 29th and Dec 1st & 4th.

Tufted x Red-crested Pochard

Middx: Bushy Park, male on Dec 31st.

Tufted x Pochard

Middx: Staines Res, male on Jul 22nd, similar to bird seen here last year.

Surrey: QE II Res, male on May 6th and same bird at Walton Res on May 8th.

***Aythya* hybrid**

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, one on Mar 19th. Wanstead Flats, one on Mar 25th.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Aug 24th.

Surrey: Thorpe Water Park, one on Jan 13th.

Common Buzzard x Harris's Hawk

Surrey: Trevereux, two hybrid young fledged.

Gyr Falcon hybrid

Essex: Rainham Marshes, singles on Mar 22nd & 30th.

Middx: East India Dock Basin, one on Jan 4th.

Saker x Gyr Falcon hybrid

Essex: Lee Valley Riding Centre, one on Mar 30th.

Peregrine x Saker Falcon hybrid

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Aug 25th.

Lanner Falcon hybrid

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, one on Jul 16th & 27th, Aug 3rd & 14th and Sep 11th.

Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed Gull

Kent: Brookmill Park, one on Oct 8th was believed to be the same as in 2012.

Caspian Gull x Yellow-legged Gull

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 3rd-summer on Jul 23rd.

Glaucous Gull hybrid

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 1st-winter on Dec 31st.

Chiffchaff x Willow Warbler

Surrey: Reports of hybrids at R Hogsmill and West Ewell are included under Willow Warbler in the Birds of the London Area section. We believe these are mixed-singing Willow Warblers rather than hybrids.

APPENDIX III: NON-PROVEN AND NON-SUBMITTED RECORDS

Non-proven records

The following records were submitted to the London Natural History Society but have not been accepted, either by the British Birds Rarities Committee or by our Rarities Committee.

2011

Red-footed Falcon	Crayford Marshes	Jul 26th
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2013

Northern Fulmar	Walthamstow Res	Jun 23rd
Barred Warbler	Wanstead Flats	Aug 21st, 28th & Sep 5th
Black Kite	Oxleas Woods	Jul 25th
Black Kite	Sunbury	May 1st
Hen Harrier	Kempton NR	Jan 23rd
Hen Harrier	Kempton NR	Mar 6th
Hen Harrier	Sevenoaks WR	May 1st
Hen Harrier	Tower 42	May 16th
Goshawk	Beddington Farmlands	Aug 26th
Red-footed Falcon	Holmethorpe SP	May 25th
Roseate Tern	Rainham Marshes	Aug 24th
Red-backed Shrike	Tenchleys	Sep 15th
Willow Tit	Amwell NR	Mar 17th

Non-submitted records

The following records have been reported but to date no details have been received by the London Natural History Society. Photos and descriptions (or notes where appropriate) for any of these records would be welcomed, so that in due course they may be published as accepted records.

2013

Bewick's Swan	KGV Res	Jan 17th
Bewick's Swan	Seventy Acres Lake	Jan 16th
Whooper Swan	Amwell NR	Oct 11th
Whooper Swan	Rye Meads	Oct 11th
Whooper Swan	Crayford/Dartford Marshes	Jan 11th
Pink-footed Goose	Netherhall GP	Apr 13th
Pink-footed Goose	London Wetland Centre	Oct 19th
Green-winged Teal	Rainham Marshes	Apr 29th
Red-throated Diver	Wimbledon Common	Jan 6th
Black-throated Diver	KGV Res	Nov 19th-27th
Northern Gannet	Rainham Marshes	Aug 25th
Northern Gannet	KGVI Res	Jul 28th
Northern Gannet	Staines Moor	Oct 14th

Northern Gannet	Staines Res	Oct 30th
Northern Gannet	Beddington Farmlands	Oct 14th
Northern Gannet	Mitcham Common	Jan 20th
Great Egret	Barking	Jul 25th
Great Egret	Ingrebourne Valley	Apr 10th
Great Egret	Rainham Marshes	Feb 6th & 11th, May 17th, Jun 28th & Nov 17th
Great Egret	Wanstead Flats	Apr 3rd
Great Egret	Stanmore	Jan 30th
Purple Heron	South Woodford	Jun 4th
Black Stork	Chessington	Nov 16th
Glossy Ibis	Amwell NR	Nov 8th
Glossy Ibis	London Wetland Centre	Dec 28th
Spoonbill	Walthamstow Res	Apr 14th
Honey Buzzard	Holyfield Marsh	Sep 21st
Honey Buzzard	Rainham Marshes	May 19th
Honey Buzzard	Rainham Marshes	Oct 18th
Honey Buzzard	Romford	Apr 24th
Honey Buzzard	Walthamstow Marsh	Jun 27th
Honey Buzzard	Walthamstow Res	Apr 25th & May 11th
Honey Buzzard	Shepperton	Sep 4th
Honey Buzzard	Sidcup	Sep 7th
Honey Buzzard	Canons Farm	Jul 24th
Honey Buzzard	Epsom Downs	Jun 3rd
Honey Buzzard	Kew Gardens	Jun 2nd
Honey Buzzard	Richmond Park	Jun 2nd & Oct 15th
Honey Buzzard	Westminster	May 17th
Black Kite	Walthamstow Res	May 30th
Black Kite	William Girling Res	Jul 25th
Black Kite	Bromley	Apr 20th & May 18th
Hen Harrier	Staines Moor	Nov 3rd
Pallid Harrier	Thorpe Water Park	Sep 18th
Montagu's Harrier	Roughtalley's Wood	Apr 14th
Goshawk	Brook Farm	Sep 23rd
Goshawk	Ongar Park Wood	Apr 7th
Goshawk	Roughtalley's Wood	Feb 28th & Apr 14th
Goshawk	South Woodford	Jan 26th, Apr 14th & Apr 22nd
Goshawk	Walthamstow Marsh	Apr 17th
Goshawk	Woodreden Estate	Jun 20th
Goshawk	Bookham Common	Jul 6th
Goshawk	Cobham	Feb 22nd
Goshawk	London Wetland Centre	Aug 25th
Rough-legged Buzzard	Holyfield Hall Farm	Jan 17th
Red-footed Falcon	Beddington Farmlands	May 20th
Red-footed Falcon	London Wetland Centre	Sep 21st
Merlin	Walthamstow FB	Nov 6th
Merlin	Staines Moor	Oct 29th
Merlin	Stanwell Moor	Dec 17th
Merlin	Swanley Park	Dec 20th
Merlin	Swanley	Jan 15th

Merlin	Beddington Farmlands	Jan 19th
Eleonora's Flacon	Danson Park	Aug 8th
Common Crane	Hanwell	Oct 6th
Black-winged Stilt	Clacket Lane Services	Jun 18th
Dotterel	Fishers Green Goosefield	May 7th
Temminck's Stint	Rainham Marshes	May 14th
Pectoral Sandpiper	Rainham Marshes	Apr 25th
Pomarine Skua	London Wetland Centre	Sep 11th
Arctic Skua	Barnes Common	Sep 11th
Arctic Skua	London Wetland Centre	Sep 11th
Great Skua	London Wetland Centre	Oct 30th
Sabine's Gull	Crossness	Aug 25th
Whiskered Tern	Staines Res	May 21st
European Nightjar	Hall Place Gardens	Jul 25th
European Nightjar	Headley Heath	Jul 6th
European Nightjar	London Wetland Centre	Sep 18th
Alpine Swift	Staines Res	May 12th
Pallid Swift	Hornchurch	Oct 27th
Pallid Swift	Upminster	Oct 23rd
Pallid Swift	East Sheen	Oct 23rd
European Bee-eater	Lakeside Shopping Centre	May 20th
Hoopoe	Southall	May 14th
Wryneck	KGV Res	Aug 28th (two birds)
Wryneck	Ridgeway, Enfield	Sep 27th
Wryneck	Beddington Farmlands	Aug 23rd
Wryneck	Motspur Park	Jun 17th
Wryneck	Woldingham	Sep 6th
White Wagtail	Epsom	Dec 7th
Siberian Thrush	Tolworth	Jan 18th
Yellow-browed Warbler	Q. Mary Res	Oct 3rd
Greenish Warbler	Claybury Park	Aug 26th
Greenish Warbler	Barnet	Aug 13th
Siberian Chiffchaff	Rainham Marshes	Jan 9th & 18th
Siberian Chiffchaff	Bushy Park	Mar 27th
Siberian Chiffchaff	Leg O Mutton NR	Dec 27th
Penduline Tit	Rainham Marshes	Feb 17th
Golden Oriole	Bretts Farm	May 3rd
Great Grey Shrike	Broadwater Lake	Nov 4th
Lapland Bunting	Beddington Farmlands	Sep 13th
Lapland Bunting	London Wetland Centre	Oct 19th
Ortolan Bunting	Canons Farm	Sep 10th

Records still in circulation

The following record is still being considered either by the British Birds Rarities Committee or by our Rarities Committee.

2012

Honey Buzzard	Home Park	Sep 15th
Honey Buzzard	Galleyhill Wood	Aug 1st

FIRST AND LAST DATES OF REGULAR MIGRANTS

Summer Migrants:	Arrival	Departure
Garganey	Apr 1 ^W Crossness	Oct 10 London Wetland Centre
Osprey	Apr 8 Beddington/Walthamstow Res	Nov 10 Maple Lodge NR
Hobby	Apr 14 Amwell NR	Nov 1 Grove Park NR
Little Ringed Plover	Mar 9 Rainham/Stanwell Moor	Aug 24 Staines Res
Eurasian Whimbrel	Apr 7 Barking Bay/Rainham Marshes	Sep 5 Rickmansworth/Tot Marshes
Little Tern	Apr 17 Staines Res	Aug 25 Rainham Marshes
Black Tern	Apr 25 Nazeing Meads/Staines Res	Oct 3 Staines Res
Sandwich Tern	Mar 11 Crayford Marshes	Oct 5 Crossness/QE II Res
Common Tern	Mar 23 Greenhithe	Nov 3 Gallions Reach
Arctic Tern	Apr 10 Island Barn Res	Oct 12 Q. Mary Res
Turtle Dove	Apr 21 Swanley Park	Aug 25 Brent Res/Q. Mother Res
Common Cuckoo	Mar 31 Thorney CP	Sep 8 Bushy Park
Common Swift	Apr 14 Cheshunt	Oct 5 Walthamstow Marsh
Sand Martin	Mar 9 Rainham Marshes	Oct 5 Walthamstow Marsh
Swallow	Apr 2 Amwell NR	Nov 10 Rainham Marshes
House Martin	Mar 28 Waterworks NR	Oct 22 Rainham Marshes
Tree Pipit	Mar 14 Walthamstow Res	Oct 13 Wormwood Scrubs
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 27 Leyton	Oct 24 Regent's Park
Nightingale	Apr 15 Poplar Dock	Sep 3 Wanstead Flats
Common Redstart	Apr 9 Alexandra Lake	Oct 2 Victoria Park
Whinchat	Apr 14 Wormwood Scrubs	Oct 21 Thorney CP
Northern Wheatear	Mar 5 Woodlands Farm	Nov 3 Walthamstow Res
Ring Ouzel	Mar 13 Canons Farm	Oct 22 Wanstead Park
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 13 Sewardstone Marsh	Sep 29 Totteridge Valley
Sedge Warbler	Apr 12 Amwell NR	Oct 19 Rye Meads
Reed Warbler	Apr 16 Three sites	Nov 6 Wimbledon Common
Garden Warbler	Apr 16 Roding Valley Meadows	Sep 21 Netherhall GP
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 17 Brayside Farm/Mar Dyke Valley	Oct 29 Tower Hamlets Cem Pk
Common Whitethroat	Apr 6 ^W West Ham Park	Oct 5 Walthamstow Marsh
Wood Warbler	Apr 17 Hilfield Park Res	Sep 6 Alexandra Park
Willow Warbler	Mar 28 ^W Ewell	Oct 20 Sevenoaks WR
Spotted Flycatcher	Apr 27 Staines Moor	Oct 3 South Norwood CP
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 15 Dulwich Park	Sep 18 Wanstead Flats

^W excludes wintering records

Winter Migrants:	Departure	Arrival
Smew	Apr 6 Wraysbury GP	Sep 27 KGV Res
Goosander	Apr 14 KGV Res	Sep 22 KGV Res
Bittern	Apr 6 London Wetland Centre	Oct 7 London Wetland Centre
Jack Snipe	Apr 26 Horsenden Hill	Sep 26 London Wetland Centre
Rock Pipit	Apr 19 Wanstead Flats	Sep 27 Hilfield Park Res
Water Pipit	Apr 13 Three sites	Oct 14 London Wetland Centre
Fieldfare	May 12 Tyttenhanger GP	Sep 4 Coulsdon
Redwing	Apr 27 Amwell NR	Sep 24 Trent Park/Vicarage Farm
Brambling	Apr 20 Holmethorpe SP	Oct 11 Beddington Farmlands

RINGING REPORT

PAUL ROPER

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/Publications.htm#LBR2013>

Ringing in London is carried out by a range of groups, partnerships and individuals. Accurate figures rely on all ringers returning ringing data to a central point for analysis to enable a comprehensive report to be written. Due to the complexity, size and transient nature of ringing in the LNHS recording area (the London Area) it is still unclear if all the ringing activity has been covered in any one year. Attempting to make any scientific comparisons on ringing data between years can therefore be rather meaningless and is not addressed in this report. Numbers of many species ringed vary year on year due to a range of factors such as ringer effort, and coverage or weather conditions which can have a marked effect on catching success and final totals for any year. For these reasons, many changes in species figures in this type of report are not a reflection on population levels but more often ringer activity or submission of records. A good reflection of population levels is through Constant Effort Sites (CES), and a number are running in the London Area; the data is pooled nationally and can be found on the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) website:

www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/surveys/ces

The BTO also provides online data for ringing in the UK, set out on a County basis which unfortunately is not a true reflection of ringing activities within the London Area. It only covers Greater London, which for 2013 shows a total of only 4,901 birds ringed against the total of 13,826 birds ringed which has been submitted for the London Area. Detailed information on birds ringed and recovered can be found for Greater London and surrounding counties at:

www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports;

however, for counties outside Greater London, the data contains all birds ringed in the county, so many county totals will also be much higher than the proportion of birds ringed within the London Area.

With this in mind, the most interesting information would appear to be the totals of each species ringed; and the finding situations of birds recovered away from London, or caught in London but having been ringed elsewhere (controls). As with previous reports, this one will deal primarily with this raw data, and readers should use caution if making any comparisons with changes in year-on-year totals.

The total number of birds ringed in London in 2013 which have been submitted amounts to 13,826. Thanks to the way in which data has been submitted by various ringers, it has been possible to separate full-grown birds and nestlings (pulli) as given in Table 1.

Numbers of wildfowl ringed have now remained stable over the last three years. Wader totals appear to have taken a drop in 2013 but notable were seven Jack Snipe, 14 Common Snipe and 16 Green Sandpipers. Birds of prey are ringed in small numbers and of note are the five Peregrine Falcon nestlings. Although activity by the North Thames Gull Group continued at Rainham in 2013, gull numbers are reduced - particularly Lesser Black-backed and Yellow-legged Gull - in line with the lack of food

Sedge Warbler movements to and from the London Area

- London Area ringing location of bird recovered elsewhere
- Ringing location of bird recovered in the London Area

The end of the line with no dot is the recovery location



(Garganey Consulting)

waste now coming into Rainham. Hirundine numbers remain low. Three Waxwings were of note. Singles of Redstart and Black Redstart were ringed and two each of Stonechat and Wheatear were ringed. Thrushes remain constant, whilst Cetti's Warbler numbers are back on the increase after a dip in 2012 and probably demonstrate the fluctuating nature of Cetti's populations in the London Area. A single Wood Warbler and Yellow-browed Warbler for the second year running and a single Firecrest are of note. Redpoll catching opportunity was not as good as in 2012 and numbers of this species were down in 2013. Full details of all species submitted are given in Table 1 (see pages 182-183).

Recoveries and Controls

There have been a number of interesting recoveries reported during the year; a selection of these are listed below. Maps have been provided this year for Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler and Chiffchaff, and for Siskin and Lesser Redpoll on pages 184 and 185 respectively, to show some of the species with good numbers of recoveries in 2013.

Reed Warbler movements to and from the London Area

- London Area ringing location of bird recovered elsewhere
- Ringing location of bird recovered in the London Area

The end of the line with no dot is the recovery location



Chiffchaff movements to the London Area

- Ringing location

The end of the line with no dot is the recovery location



(Garganey Consulting)

Some records of particular interest this year are given on pages 183 to 185. The full list of recoveries is posted on the LNHS website.

The first line shows the ring number, the age (and sex) when ringed, and the date and site of original ringing; the second line the status, date and site of subsequent recovery or recapture including the distance (1km = 0.625 miles) and number of days between original ringing and final recovery. Dates are in the format dd/mm/yy.

Table 1. Species totals of birds reported as ringed in the London Area during 2013

FG = full-grown; pul = nestling (pullus)

Species	FG	pul	2013	2012	2011	Species	FG	pul	2013	2012	2011
	2013	2013	total	total	total		2013	2013	total	total	total
Mute Swan	254	13	267	136	108	Stock Dove	2	10	12	7	16
Greylag Goose	5	7	12	5	2	Woodpigeon	32	19	51	32	23
Canada Goose	98	56	154	228	54	Collared Dove	5	0	5	15	7
Egyptian Goose	12	5	17	31	1	Ring-nkd Parakeet	69	0	69	301	239
Mandarin Duck	1	1	2	5	2	Cuckoo	1	0	1	0	1
Gadwall	8	24	32	24	9	Barn Owl	0	2	2	11	9
Teal	28	0	28	50	3	Little Owl	2	3	5	6	2
Mallard	27	23	50	80	15	Tawny Owl	0	1	1	6	4
Shoveler	1	0	1	0	0	Swift	1	0	1	305	0
Pochard	0	5	5	6	2	Kingfisher	21	0	21	21	47
Tufted Duck	9	35	44	29	8	Green Woodpecker	12	0	12	26	37
Cormorant	1	0	1	10	4	Gt Spd Woodpecker	43	0	43	67	57
Little Egret	0	11	11	15	0	Lsr Spd Woodpecker	0	0	0	1	0
Grey Heron	1	15	16	18	33	Sand Martin	14	12	26	1	95
Little Grebe	6	0	6	8	2	Swallow	30	0	30	51	114
Great Crested Grebe	0	0	0	3	0	House Martin	211	0	211	73	14
Sparrowhawk	7	0	7	13	14	Tree Pipit	0	0	0	0	1
Buzzard	0	0	0	0	2	Meadow Pipit	119	0	119	57	220
Kestrel	1	5	6	9	22	Grey Wagtail	12	0	12	8	20
Peregrine Falcon	0	5	5	8	0	Pied Wagtail	25	0	25	1	2
Water Rail	5	0	5	3	0	Waxwing	3	0	3	0	1
Moorhen	36	1	37	24	14	Wren	304		304	286	354
Coot	46	3	49	38	47	Dunnoek	346	1	347	326	512
Little Ringed Plover	1	0	1	0	5	Robin	416	8	424	473	637
Lapwing	0	0	0	1	7	Nightingale	0	0	0	1	1
Woodcock	0	0	0	2	0	Black Redstart	1	0	1	0	1
Dunlin	0	0	0	0	84	Redstart	1	0	1	3	4
Jack Snipe	7	0	7	0	0	Whinchat	0	0	0	0	1
Snipe	14	0	14	0	1	Stonechat	2	0	2	0	0
Redshank	0	0	0	0	7	Wheatear	2	0	2	1	0
Green Sandpiper	16	0	16	0	3	Blackbird	354	6	360	466	403
Common Sandpiper	5	0	5	5	1	Fieldfare	10	0	10	12	2
Black-headed Gull	301	145	446	400	702	Song Thrush	147	8	155	160	162
Common Gull	9	0	9	53	6	Redwing	77	0	77	63	42
Lsr Black-bkd Gull	2	0	2	39	201	Mistle Thrush	0	0	0	6	0
Yellow-legged Gull	0	0	0	2	27	Cetti's Warbler	32	4	36	16	57
Herring Gull	274	0	274	351	834	Grasshopper Warbler	1	0	1	1	7
Caspian Gull	2	0	2	0	3	Sedge Warbler	544	39	583	298	579
Gt Black-bkd Gull	2	0	2	5	46	Reed Warbler	842	46	888	624	1129
Common Tern	0	24	24	24	51	Blackcap	1001	4	1005	1066	2478

Species	FG 2013	pul 2013	2013 total	2012 total	2011 total	Species	FG 2013	pul 2013	2013 total	2012 total	2011 total
Garden Warbler	101	8	109	78	344	Magpie	22	15	37	36	30
Lesser Whitethroat	44	0	44	15	93	Jackdaw	5	0	5	9	8
Whitethroat	381	29	410	213	1272	Carrion Crow*	4	3	7	6	3
Wood Warbler	1	0	1	0	1	Starling	293	0	293	273	86
Chiffchaff	834	5	839	645	1385	House Sparrow	104	2	106	100	39
Willow Warbler	179	0	179	127	237	Tree Sparrow	8	27	35	342	0
Yel-browed Warbler	1	0	1	1	0	Chaffinch	241	4	245	342	295
Goldcrest	109	0	109	338	161	Brambling	2	0	2	2	3
Firecrest	1	0	1	5	2	Greenfinch	402	5	407	465	834
Spotted Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	2	Goldfinch	483	0	483	643	662
Bearded Tit	0	0	0	3	0	Siskin	191	0	191	64	132
Long-tailed Tit	250	0	250	263	394	Linnet	15	0	15	16	75
Blue Tit	1000	939	1939	2102	2228	Common Redpoll	7	0	7	1	1
Great Tit	600	668	1268	1215	1362	Redpoll Sp	9	0	9	0	3
Coal Tit	34	0	34	49	45	Lesser Redpoll	182	0	182	378	525
Marsh Tit	1	4	5	2	1	Bullfinch	27	0	27	33	50
Nuthatch	11	0	11	28	22	Yellowhammer	28	0	28	8	0
Treecreeper	18	0	18	22	31	Reed Bunting	102	5	107	76	154
Great Grey Shrike	0	0	0	1	0	Total	11571	2255	13826	14375	20109
Jay	20	0	20	58	31	*or Hooded Crow					

Key to symbols used:

ad	Adult	M	Male	VV	Ring or colour marks read in the field
F	Female	pul	Pullus/Nestling	X	Found dead
J	Juvenile	R	Caught and released by a ringer	+	Shot or killed by man

EURING Codes for the age of the bird when ringed.	2	Current calendar year or any age older	
0	Not aged	3	In First calendar year
1	Pullus/Nestling	4	Second calendar year or older
1J	In first calendar year and close to nest	5	In second calendar year

Tufted Duck

FH27 848	1	20/08/10	Rye Meads, Herts
(hunted)	+	28/12/12	Groto, Rödsjär Islands, Västra Götaland, Sweden 995km NE; 861 days

Oystercatcher

FRP EA639632	3	05/04/11	Réserve Naturelle de Moëze-Oléron, Moëze, France
	VV	07/04/13	London Wetland Centre, Surrey; 624km N; 733 days

Common Gull

EL35116	6	22/02/11	River Brent, Greenford, Middx
	X	20/06/13	Hedehusene, Denmark; 946km ENE; 849 days
NOS 5186040	3	25/09/11	Byparken, Bergen, Norway
	VV	07/02/13	Kensington Gardens, In Lond; 1,044km SSW; 501 days

Siskin movements from the London Area

- London Area
ringing location of
bird recovered
elsewhere

The end of the line
with no dot is the
recovery location



(Garganey Consulting)

Lesser Black-backed Gull

FR59726	ad	29/08/09	Rainham Tip, Essex
	X	12/03/13	Kharouba, Mostaganem, Algeria; 1,728km S; 1,291 days

Yellow-legged Gull

DEW N105314	1	06/06/13	Posthof, Frankfurt, Germany
	R	16/11/13	Rainham Tip, Essex; 615km WNW; 163 days

Caspian Gull

PLG DN29193	1	24/05/13	Kozielno, Paczków, Poland
	VV	23/09/13	Beddington Farmlands, Surrey; 1,204km W; 122 days

Barn Owl

GR12922	1	15/06/11	near Gonalston, Nottinghamshire
	X	08/05/13	Enfield (Lee Valley Park), Middx; 166km SSE; 693 days

Waxwing

NV56100	adF	01/12/12	Newtown, Powys
	VV	19/12/12	Royston, Hertfordshire; 230km ESE; 18 days
(hit building)	X	27/04/13	Upton, Newham, Essex; 253km ESE; 147 days

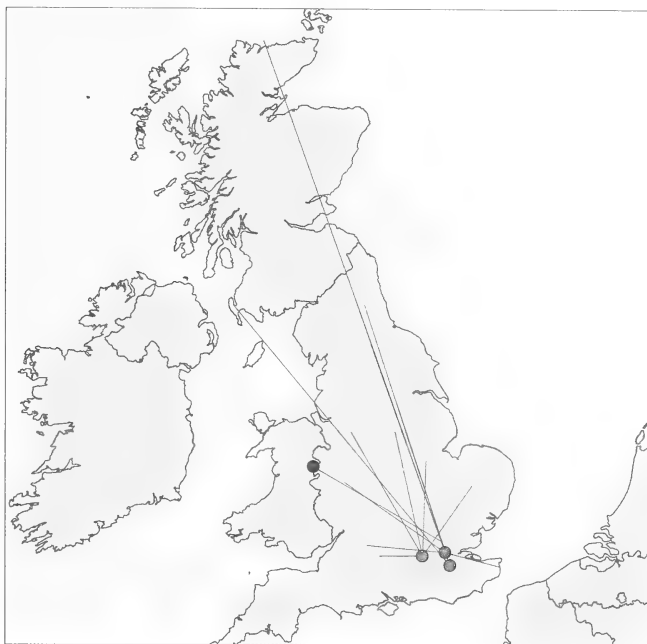
Cetti's Warbler

L408 874	2F	20/11/10	Woolston Eyes, Warrington, Cheshire
	R	21/10/12 & 03/11/12	Rye Meads, Herts; 249km SE; 714 days

Lesser Redpoll movements to and from the London Area

- London Area ringing location of bird recovered elsewhere
- Ringing location of bird recovered in the London Area

The end of the line with no dot is the recovery location



(Garganey Consulting)

Bearded Tit

L511928	4F	10/11/12	Rye Meads, Herts
	V	11/12/12	The Serpentine, Hyde Park, In Lond; 32km SSW; 31 days
	R	17/08/13	Belton Marshes, Norfolk; 144km NE; 280 days

Goldfinch

D134270	4F	06/11/12	Queen Mary Reservoir, Middx
	R	01/05/13	Calf of Man, Isle of Man; 413km NW; 176 days

Reporting a ringed bird

The BTO relies on people reporting ringed birds, so if you find a bird wearing a ring or have read metal or colour ring details in the field, please report these to:

BTO Ringing Unit, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU
or online at www.ring.ac

List of contributors

The compiler gratefully acknowledges the information received from the following: A. G. Beasley, S. Christmas, Dartford Ringing Group, C. W. Dee, D. Harris, Hersham Ringing Group, North Thames Gull Group, P. Oakenfull, M. Reed, P. Roper, D. Ross, Runnymede Ringing Group, Rye Meads Ringing Group, Roy Sanderson, R. Taylor and B. Trevis.

Paul Roper. ntgg_sightings@hotmail.co.uk

FOREIGN-RINGED BLACK-HEADED GULLS

ALAN GIBSON

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/Publications.htm#LBR2013>

I am still in the stone age and use a telescope to read the rings. The way forward is undoubtedly with a digital camera, the big advantage being quicker focusing.

The following records for 2013 are from six sites in London. The letters and numbers in brackets are on the plastic rings which are occurring more often these days.

[A spreadsheet of these records is posted on the LNHS website. Ed.]

January

At Alexandra Park boating lake from Poland FS 05065 (T5RL) white seen four times. From Sweden 6415395 in its eighth winter here seen five times. From Germany 5500746 in its fifth winter here seen twice.

At Broomfield Park from Holland 3729647 (L-Y) white in its second winter here seen four times. From Germany 5501794 in its second winter here seen once. From Lithuania HV 08627 in its second winter here seen twice. From Sweden 6194524 in its second winter here seen once.

At Regent's Park from Denmark 6H5105 (V115) red in its fourth winter here seen once. From Sweden 6420336 back for its second winter seen once.

At St James's Park from Denmark AA6221 (SLW) white in its fifth winter here having missed two winters seen twice. From Germany 5351220 in its third winter here seen once.

At Hyde Park from Belgium 7T 94602 in its second winter here seen once. From Germany a Common Gull 5347343 (A35E) red first seen in 2010 seen once.

At Kensington Gardens from Poland FN 84318 (T4UN) white seen three times.

February

At Alexandra Park boating lake from Germany 55000746 seen another two times. From Lithuania HV 13740 in its second winter here seen once. From Poland FS 05065 (T5RL) white seen a further nine times. From Sweden 6199157 back for its twelfth winter here seen three times and 6415395 seen another eight times.

At Broomfield Park from Holland 3722060 (PI) red in its second winter here seen once. From Lithuania HV 08627 seen once more.

At Regent's Park from Denmark 6H2822 (VMW) white in its second winter seen once and AA 6050 back for its sixth winter here seen twice. From Finland ST 247092 in its fourth winter here seen once, ST 284513 in its second winter here seen twice and ST 285884 (EAJO) in its second winter here seen twice.

At St James's Park from Sweden 6199066 seen once. Also my second oldest British-ringed Black-headed Gull EK 88280 ringed in St James's Park Nov 11th 1984.

At Hyde Park from Belgium 7T 94603 seen once more. From Germany 5411136 seen twice.

At Kensington Gardens from Poland FN 84318 (T4UN) white seen another three times. Also a Common Gull from Norway 518?040 (J4L7) white seen once.

March

At Alexandra Park boating lake from Poland FS 05065 (T5RL) white seen a further two times. From Sweden 6415395 seen another four times.

At Broomfield Park from Holland 3722060 (PI) red seen four more times. From Lithuania HV 08627 seen once more. From Sweden 6194524 seen once more.

At Regent's Park from Denmark AA 6060 seen twice more. From Finland ST 284513 seen another three times, ST 285151 seen once, ST 285884 (EAJO) white seen twice more and ST 286073 seen three times; also three more that I didn't get full identification for. From Poland FN 97539 (THWT) white seen twice. From Sweden 6420336 seen once more.

At St James's Park from Denmark 6H8451 (VE78) white back for its second winter seen once.

At Hyde Park from Germany 5411136 seen once more.

October

At Alexandra Park boating lake from Poland FS 05065 (TSRL) white back for its second winter seen three times.

At Regent's Park from Finland ST 284513 back for its fourth winter seen once.

November

At Alexandra Park boating lake from Poland FS 05065 (T5RL) white seen four more times. From Sweden 6199157 back for its twelfth winter seen once and 6415395 back for its ninth winter seen four times.

At Regent's Park from Finland ST 284513 seen three more times and ST 285884 (EAJO) white back for its third winter seen once.

At Hyde Park from Holland 3694833 (E2R7) white seen once.

At Kensington Gardens from Norway (JOTR) white seen twice and K00097 (J4HA) white seen twice. From Sweden 6427261 seen twice.

December

At Alexandra Park boating lake from Germany 5500746 back for its sixth winter. From Poland FS 05065 (T5RL) seen another five times. From Norway 6-881 (J4Y9) white seen once. From Sweden 6415395 seen another five times.

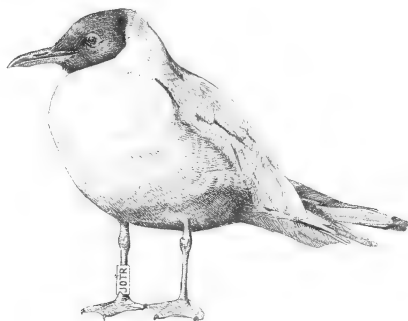
At Broomfield Park from Holland 3722060 (PI) red back for its third winter seen once.

At Regent's Park ST 284513 seen once more and ST 285884 (EAJO) white seen once more.

At St James's Park from Denmark 6J3464 seen twice.

At Hyde Park from Holland 3721980 seen once. From Finland ST 294731 back for its second winter seen once.

At Kensington Gardens from Norway (JOTR) white seen once and K00097 (J4HA) white seen once more. From Sweden 6427261 seen once more.



Black-headed Gull with white Norwegian ring. (Dawn Painter)

Alan Gibson, 40 The Avenue,
Muswell Hill, London, N10 2QL

CHANGES IN THE BIRD-LIFE OF THE LIMPSFIELD CHART DISTRICT, SURREY, 2008-2013 A TALE OF CONTINUING DECLINE

PETER OLIVER

Introduction, study area and methods

In an earlier paper (Oliver, 2009, 'the Earlier Study') I reviewed the breeding birds of the area around Limpsfield Chart, Surrey (TQ431521) and The High Chart ('the Chart') from the beginning of the last century down to 2007. This revealed a depressing and ever-increasing rate of decline and loss in the breeding birds. I also included a systematic list of all the species for which I could trace records or for which there was some evidence of their probable or possible occurrence in the area. Here, I carry the story forward to the end of 2013, dealing primarily with both breeding and non-breeding species whose change of status in this period is notable. This review reveals a similarly depressing tale of decline and loss, relieved by only a small number of positive changes.

The study area 'The District' (Fig. 1) is centred on the scarp edge of the Greensand Ridge, extending from the A25 in the north, for some four kilometres south across the Chart and on to the mostly arable farmland. At its highest point it is 202m above sea level. The Chart is a mixture of mature Oak and Beech, with substantial areas of planted conifers, mostly Corsican Pines and Scots Pines. The once open heathland is now densely covered in self-sown Birch, much of it already around 4-5m tall and so dense as to be of limited attraction to birds. In the summer of 2014, many of the conifer plantations were clear-felled, but it is not yet known whether these will be replanted, in whole or in part, or left to regenerate naturally. This substantial habitat change falls outside the period covered by this review.

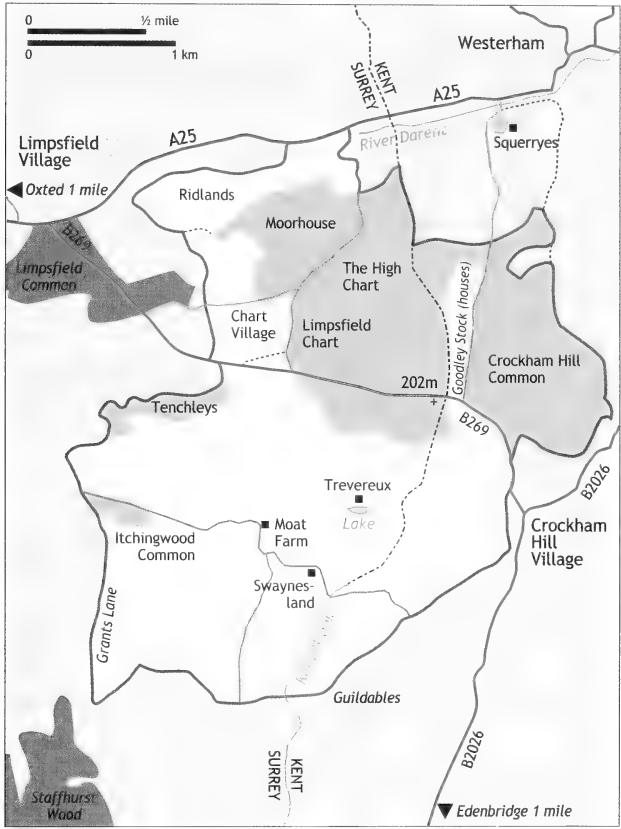


Fig 1
Map of Limpsfield Chart and District.

- Survey area
- Woodland within survey area
- Woodland outside survey area

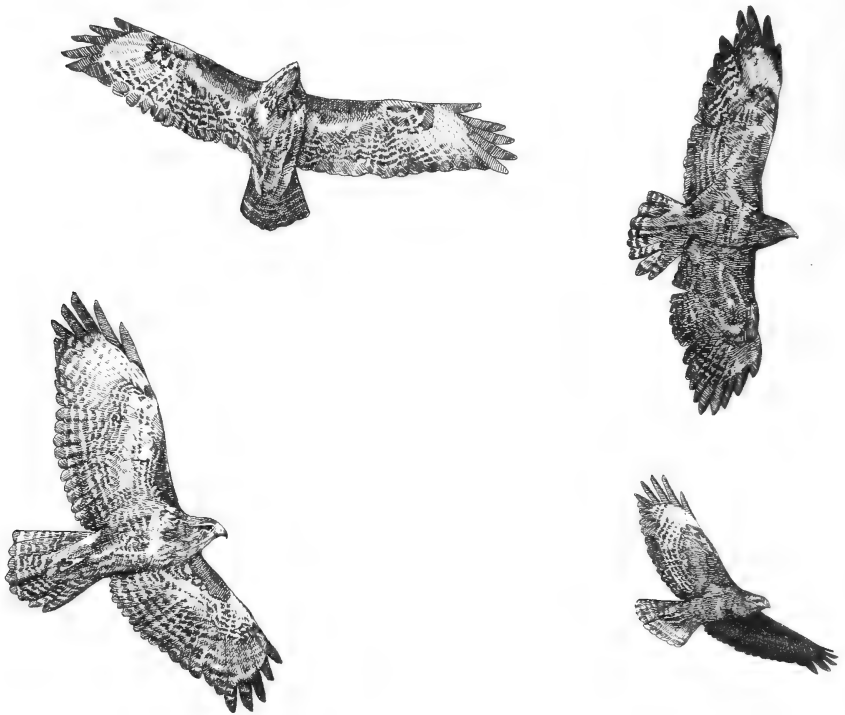
Based on an original artwork by the late Ken Osborne, published in the *Surrey Bird Report* for 2002.

Courtesy, Surrey Bird Club



Below: Looking north at the three main habitats in the study area - the woods of the Chart coming to the top of the scarp slope, the farmland below, and a small lake (at the left of the painting) by Trevereux. (Dawn Painter)





In common with most of the rest of the country, the Buzzard is now a well established resident. (Dawn Painter)

The only significant water is a small lake of about half a hectare at Trevereux at the foot of the scarp slope. There is a larger one of just over a hectare at Squerries: although some 700m east of the District, records from here are referred to where relevant. A fuller description of the habitat and its history is given in the Earlier Study.

Data were collected principally in the course of conducting three regular transects: on the Chart (2.6km), the farmland to the south (4.2km) and the Moorhouse woods and farmland to the north (1.8km). Each of these transects was conducted typically between four and seven times per month, though from 2010 that on the Chart was reduced to between about twice and four times per month, since by then the birds to be seen there had been seriously reduced in both number and diversity. There were also periods of between one and three weeks each year when I was absent and made no observations. Casual observations were made on most other days of the year. Where relevant I refer to records from nearby localities. In a few instances where it adds to the picture, I have also included information from the first half of 2014.

Major changes of status

In this section I describe major changes in status of both breeding and non-breeding species.

Gains and increases

Mandarin Duck: Until 2008 there had been only very sporadic records in spring, but from that year such records have been annual, between one and three per annum, at some stage generally involving a pair. Behaviour has suggested the possibility of breeding, but the first evidence of that was not until a brood was seen in May 2014 (with only a single spring record of a drake prior to that).

Little Egret: From 2002, when this species first appeared in the District one or two were seen in most winters, usually along the narrow tributary of the Darent at Moorhouse. That pattern has continued since, with peak numbers increasing to four. These birds appear to be outliers of larger numbers that have appeared over the same period beside the Darent about 1km east of the District. Larger numbers occur when the fields beside the river there become flooded, culminating in up to 11 in February 2014. There have been three records in the District in July or August involving one or two individuals.

Red Kite: In common with much of the rest of the country this species has become much more regular as a spring visitor. In 2006 and 2007 there were records of singles from just beyond the District, but from 2009 it has become annual here, mostly singly and in spring, but in 2011 a total of three was noted flying W on Jun 11th. A single lingered at Trevereux for the first week of June 2013 and there is an unconfirmed report of two doing so in the same period at Ridlands.

Common Buzzard: It is less than 20 years since the first Buzzard bred near the District, when a pair did so on the Downs north of Brasted less than 4km to the NE. By 2007 there were seven or eight territorial pairs along the Downs between Titsey and Brasted and the following year there were two in the District. Keeping track of a Buzzard population requires more time than I was able to devote to it, but by 2013 the population in the District had probably increased to about ten territorial pairs. Judging by the manner in which a population near Bristol has increased (Prytherch, 2013), there is presumably still scope for further increases as new pairs squeeze the territories of existing residents.

Hobby: Although breeding has never been confirmed, a pair has been strongly suspected of doing so annually since 2006 (so commencing just within the period of the Earlier Study). It has thus changed from an irregular visitor to almost certainly an annual breeder (though in 2014 there were no records).

Barn Owl: Lost as a breeding species in the District after the last pair nested in 1972, there were only very sporadic records until 2008, when one roosted in a ruined barn at Moat Farm and probably did so over the winter and into 2009. This led to breeding in an owl-box at Trevereux in 2011, but the chicks failed to fledge. The following winter the roosting barn was redeveloped and although a second owl-box has been installed no further breeding attempts are known and there have been only two further sightings. We can but hope that in time the boxes will once again attract this species to the District.

Raven: First recorded on three dates in 2009 it has since been noted two or three times every year apart from 2011, while in 2014 four had already been recorded in the first half of the year. Apart from the first two which spent time in aerobatics with resident Buzzards, all have flown straight over.



It is surely only a matter of time before Red Kites breed in the District. (Mick Southcott)

Goldfinch: In the Earlier Study I noted a severe decline in this species at some time in the 1980s or early 1990s and, apart from possibly in 2007, I had no evidence of breeding in the District since some time before 1996. This has been reversed in the current period. Bird-days are an unreliable indicator of trends, but these doubled between 2007 and 2008, which presumably indicates a real increase. The next year there was ample evidence of breeding, generally family parties still being fed, which has continued in all subsequent years. It is now a regular and common species throughout the year, a return to its status in the 1970s.

Losses and declines

Tufted Duck: From 1996 to 2007 one or two (once three) pairs bred at Treverex in about one year in two, but none has done so since. This has coincided with the introduction of Carp, which appear to have decimated the dragonfly population. Whether there is a connection between these events and the Tufted Duck's decline is unknown. A pair or two may have bred at Squerryes, but my observations have been insufficient to confirm this. Before 2008 the winter maximum in the District was 20 and has not since exceeded ten, though there were 24 at Squerryes in January 2013.

Little Grebe: One or sometimes two pairs bred at Treverex in most years from at least 1997 to 2010, but none has done so since. It has probably bred most years at Squerryes and certainly did so in 2013. Whether there is a common cause for the disappearance of this species and the Tufted Duck at Treverex is unknown.

Kestrel: Although breeding has rarely been confirmed I have little doubt that a pair or two has done so annually until 2011. The evidence is less clear for 2012 and it seems at least possible that none did so in 2013. The decline in the number of bird-days over the past three years, excluding known nesting birds and their flying young, lends some support to this possibility: 2011 - 19; 2012 - 16; 2013 - 13.

Lapwing: The history of this species in the District in recent years is as dismal as any. From being a regular (though rarely successful) breeder in the 1990s and an annual visitor, sometimes in three-figure flocks, it has become no more than a vagrant. Prior to 2008 it last bred in 2004 and did not do so again until 2009 when two pairs attempted, but their nests were ploughed out. There have been similar breeding attempts at Clacket Lane, 2km north-west of the District in 2003 and 2009, but these too probably failed (Brian Thomas noted successful breeding there in 2002). The largest winter flock since 2007 was of 135 in 2009-10, since when there has been none until two records referring to a party of four and a single in 2013.

Turtle Dove: Down to 2007 this was an annual visitor with one, or rarely two or three, singing fairly regularly in the late spring or early summer. There was, though, no direct evidence of its having bred. That pattern continued in 2008 and 2009, but the following year there was just a single record of one singing on May 7th. The only record since is of one singing very briefly on Aug 9th 2013.

Cuckoo: Until 1998 this was a familiar species on both the Chart and in the surrounding farmland, but from that year it became much more erratic and in 2002 it was heard singing on only three occasions. Since then it has continued to appear each spring, but often calling for much shorter periods and never from the Chart, but in 2013 it was recorded on just one date. In 2014 it was heard much more frequently, so it still seems to maintain a tenuous hold in the District.

The Lapwing, once a breeder and regular winter visitor, is now a rarity. (Tony Coombs)



Swift: For over 30 years the only breeding colony in the District has been a small one in the village, with probably never more than ten pairs, but now possibly as few as two or three. There are colonies in some of the churches near the District, but I have no useful data on these. The best indication of the Swift's dramatic decline comes from the size of screaming parties over the Chart and village. From the mid-1990s the peak counts declined from regular gatherings of up to c100, to no more than 35, apart from a flock of 65 in 2003. The reduction has continued since (Table 1).

Table 1. Peak counts of Swifts, 2008-13

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
18	30	26	17	11	11

Skylark: This has always been a scarce breeder in the District, being confined to a handful of fields north and south of the Chart. The population, as judged by the number of singing males, fluctuated from year to year between seven and thirteen pairs from at least the mid-1990s to 2012, but has since collapsed. In both 2013 and 2014, although there were five singing males, some of these were noted on only a single date and there were probably only three territorial birds each year. There is no obvious explanation for the decline in the fields at Trevereux and Moat, but at Ridlands it was undoubtedly caused by gross over-grazing by both cattle and sheep. So severe was it that by February 2014, only about 50 per cent of the fields had effective vegetative cover, the other half having been grazed to only a centimetre or less from its roots. Tellingly, after grazing ceased the fields were cultivated and when crops began to appear at the end of April a singing Skylark appeared, followed by a second a fortnight later, though it is doubtful whether this led to breeding. Outside the breeding season it has also declined drastically. From 2008 to 2010 the largest winter flocks ranged from 18 to 60, but since then there have been no more than 15; but that belies the fact that in 2012-13 and 2013-14 there have otherwise rarely been more than five together and, especially at Ridlands, there have been long periods of absence.

House Martin: In the last 20 years of the twentieth century, this species steadily declined as a breeding species both in the District and in surrounding areas and apart from in 2007, when a pair might have attempted to do so, none has bred in the District since 2001. Outside the breeding season gatherings in excess of 25 are now exceptional. In the review period the only flock in excess of that was 100 on Sep 3rd 2011.

Meadow Pipit: I have never known this species to have bred in the District, but it was once a regular autumn and winter visitor, though usually in flocks not exceeding 20-30. Generally those did not linger for more than a week or two. From 2010, however, its occurrences have been much more erratic and although peak counts still ranged between 16 and 30 in three of the subsequent four years, these generally moved on quickly and in 2011 the maximum was only seven. Otherwise it now occurs only occasionally and in numbers rarely exceeding five.

Pied Wagtail: In 2007 I was able to describe the status of this species in the District over the previous two decades and more as a scarce breeder and abundant autumn and winter visitor. It has probably now ceased to breed and is no longer abundant. While a pair bred, or probably did so, at Trevereux every year from 2008 to 2012,

there was no suggestion of breeding in the following two years. While peak counts in the Earlier Study did not often exceed 20, these and especially the occasional larger flocks often remained for several weeks. Since 2012 the largest flock was 31 in October 2013, but this was an isolated peak and in the first quarter of that year the highest count was only six.

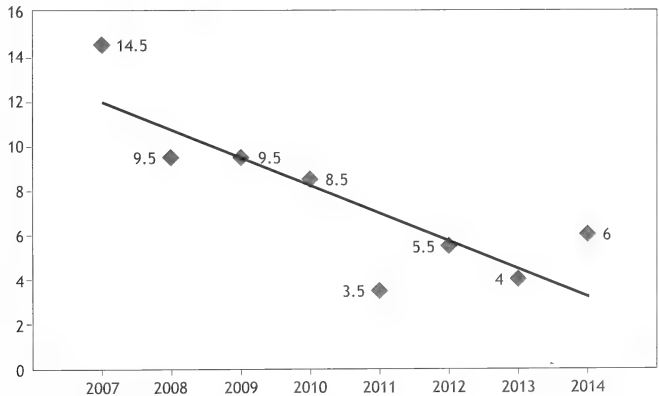
Mistle Thrush: This is a difficult species to assess accurately, but there can be no doubt that it has declined in the District in recent years to the point where it is now generally noted on only two or three dates annually and only rarely heard singing. Prior to 2008, on the basis of singing males, there were probably three to four pairs annually, but in that year I recorded singing males only twice (from different locations) though in August, in a third location, one was carrying food. Since then it has been seen on only a handful of dates each year and in some years I have not heard it singing, though in 2012 a pair bred successfully immediately north of the District.

Garden Warbler: This species was lost as a breeder in 2003, since when it has been no more than a very scarce spring migrant and not noted at all in 2009 or 2010. It was therefore a surprise when two singing males took up residence on the edge of the Chart in spring 2013 and it seems very likely that one of those bred. This was not repeated in 2014, when there were single records on two dates, though one of those was from the probable breeding locality of the previous year.

Chiffchaff: Although its numbers often fluctuate markedly from year to year, there can be no reasonable doubt that the Chiffchaff has steadily declined in the District in the past decade. This was evident in the Earlier Study and the trend, based on the mean of the two highest counts of singing males on the Chart and Trevereux circuits each year, has continued its downward path (Figure 2). While the densely regenerating birch on the Chart has probably made the habitat unsuitable for it, there has been no apparent change in the Trevereux habitat that might explain its reduction there.

Figure 2. Chiffchaff
 Mean of two highest counts of singing male Chiffchaffs on Chart and Trevereux circuits.

Key
 ◆ Mean



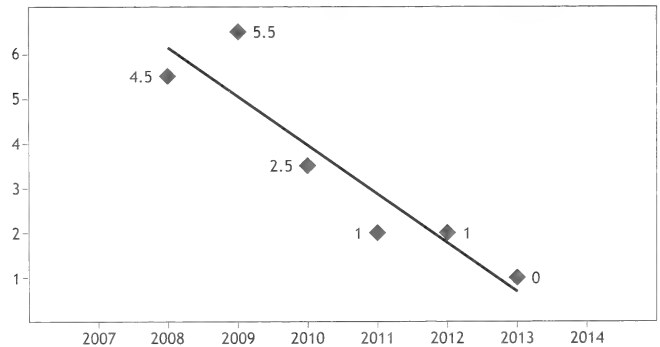
Willow Warbler: The loss of the Willow Warbler, once giving one of the most characteristic sounds of the British spring, is as sad as that of the Lapwing. Its decline first became apparent around the turn of the century and has continued until its final extinction as a breeding species in 2014. Figure 3 illustrates its decline on the Chart



One of the saddest losses is the sound of Willow Warblers singing throughout the spring and early summer. (Tony Coombs)

Figure 3.
Willow Warbler
Mean of two highest counts of singing male Willow Warblers on Chart and Trevereux circuits.

Key
◆ Mean



circuit, where the last singing males (not confirmed to have bred) were present in 2011 and 2012. In that year an additional singing male was found on the edge of the Chart and the following year up to two were singing in the same place, one of which fledged young. But the only records in the first half of 2014 were of two transient males elsewhere in the District.

Marsh Tit: In the Earlier Study I was able to describe this species as a scarce or rare resident, occurring also in nearby woodlands and occasionally visiting garden bird-feeders in winter. That remained true in 2008, but the following year there was just a single record as there was in 2010 when one on Nov 7th is the last record in the District of which I am aware. It has probably also gone from nearby woodlands.

Greenfinch: There was a clear reduction in the number of Greenfinches noted from about 2007, coinciding with the discovery in this and some other finches of the parasite *Trichomonosis* to which a national decline was attributed. This was obvious in the decline in frequency and numbers in gardens, but I did not keep relevant counts until 2008, since when the maximum count noted in an area of about one-third of a square kilometre centred on the village and surrounding houses and gardens has not exceeded ten in any year. Flock counts elsewhere in the District were never large, though surprisingly the highest I have recorded, 120 feeding on rape stubble in August, occurred in 2008. Since then the largest flocks were 50 in 2010, 22 the following year and no more than five since.

Linnet: This species was lost as a regular breeder in the 1990s, after which it did so only sporadically. Since 2007 there has been no confirmed breeding, though it may have done so in 2009 and 2010. In 2013 there were no summer records. Before 2008 it was normally a regular spring and autumn migrant occurring in flocks of several tens, but occasionally up to 100 (maximum 150 in October 1992). In the current period there has been no evidence of passage, but larger flocks still occasionally appear when there is a suitable food source, generally stubble of various types. Usually these appearances are of short duration, but in 2013-14 a flock of 30 in October built up steadily to a maximum of 110 in December (the second highest count in the District). Smaller numbers remained into the following year, with a maximum of 35 at the end of March.

Yellowhammer: This species has always been very restricted in its distribution in the District, occurring almost exclusively on a handful of fields at both Trevereux and Ridlands. From the turn of the century the total number of advertising males on the circuits in these areas each year was consistently between about ten and twelve. In 2008 this increased to 16, but since then there has been a steady decline to no more than six in 2011. There have certainly been fewer since, probably no more than three each year from 2012-14, but some males tend now to advertise only over a short period and I have ignored these as potential breeders, so may have under-estimated the true number. There has been a parallel decline in winter flocks. In 2007-08 there were as many as 100, the most since 1987-88, but since then there have never been more than 30 and in three winters only single figures on just one or two dates.

Reed Bunting: Once a regular visitor to the District outside the breeding season, occasionally in flocks of several tens, its status by 2004 had already declined to that of a very occasional visitor in no more than single figures. It has since become even more scarce, the most having been a flock of five in September 2010, but otherwise never more than two and none in either 2012 or 2013.

Species for which there is no convincing evidence of change of status

Species for which there is no convincing evidence of change are listed in Appendix 1. This encompasses 58 species, excluding occasional or vagrant species. The status of about a fifth of these is based on no more than subjective judgements, but the rest are based on numerical data collected consistently over the Study Period. Further details are included in the Appendix.

Other species

Since 2007 a further five species have been recorded in the District for the first time. In addition to Red Kite and Raven, already discussed, these were Goosander - a red-head low W on Jan 1st 2008; Common/Arctic Tern (probably the latter) - one E at Trevereux on May 18th 2008 and Yellow-browed Warbler - one at Ridlands on Nov 8th 2009. It is also worth noting that a Harris's Hawk appeared on Dec 26th 2007 and remained until at least Jun 21st 2014, since when it has not been seen. It probably paired with a Common Buzzard in 2008 and certainly did so the following year, when they raised two young. They then bred annually until 2013, raising young in every year except one. Almost all of the young disappeared within a few weeks and it is doubtful if any survived for more than about six months.

Discussion

The changes described above are summarised in Table 2. This reveals five gains or increases in breeding species and four in non-breeders, one of which, Barn Owl, is also included as a breeder. By contrast the comparable figures for losses and declines are sixteen and nine respectively. By way of comparison, Table 3 shows, for breeding species only (since the Earlier Study did not analyse losses in this way) these figures with those derived from the Earlier Study (which gives the sources for the historical figures). For every period, losses and declines have greatly exceeded gains and increases and the rate of loss has increased, especially over recent decades. Here I consider whether there is any pattern in the current study and how the picture for the District may compare with both the wider LNHS Area, based, unless otherwise stated, on *LBRs* from 2008-2012 and nationally on Balmer *et al* (2013) ('the Atlas').

Of the species that are either new or have increased, Little Egret, Red Kite, Common Buzzard and Raven are broadly consistent with the pattern elsewhere, both in the LNHS Area and in the rest of the country, though interestingly, the tetrad map in Woodward and Arnold (2012) reveals hardly any records of Little Egret in the southern quarter of the LNHS Area. There is no suitable breeding habitat for Little Egret in the District, but Red Kite is already breeding in Surrey (Holling *et al*, 2014) as, probably, is Raven, so these are certainly potential breeders here, while Buzzards are now well distributed as a breeding species in the District. Both Mandarin Duck and Hobby have long bred in Surrey and have done so in the LNHS Area for some time, so their appearance as actual or probable breeders in the District is unsurprising. The exception is Barn Owl which is a scarce breeder in the LNHS Area and nationally has been reasonably stable, though there was some suggestion of declines and losses in the areas to the north of the District and 2013 was reported to have been an extremely poor breeding season (Barn Owl Trust, 2014). While it has yet to establish itself as a breeder here, it has been seen much more regularly than previously and has bred at least once. Nationally the Goldfinch increased by 91% between 1995 and 2010, though this was predominantly in the uplands. The Atlas noted, however, that its success was attributable in part to garden feeding. That could perhaps be a reason for its increase in the District since 2008.

Table 2. Species increasing and decreasing 2008-2013

	Gains/increases		Losses/declines	
	Breeding	Non-breeding	Breeding	Non-breeding
Mandarin Duck	x	-	-	-
Tufted Duck	-	-	x	-
Little Grebe	-	-	x	-
Little Egret	-	x	-	-
Red Kite	-	x	-	-
Common Buzzard	x	-	-	-
Kestrel	-	-	x	-
Hobby	x	-	-	-
Lapwing	-	-	-	x
Turtle Dove	-	-	x	-
Barn Owl	x	x	-	-
Cuckoo	-	-	x	-
Swift	-	-	x	-
Skylark	-	-	x	x
House Martin	-	-	-	x
Meadow Pipit	-	-	-	x
Pied Wagtail	-	-	x	x
Mistle Thrush	-	-	x	-
Garden Warbler	-	-	x	-
Chiffchaff	-	-	x	-
Willow Warbler	-	-	x	-
Marsh Tit	-	-	x	-
Raven	-	x	-	-
Greenfinch	-	-	x	x
Goldfinch	x	-	-	-
Ljnnnet	-	-	x	x
Yellowhammer	-	-	x	x
Reed Bunting	-	-	-	x
TOTAL	5	4	16	9

Table 3. Number of breeding species new and increasing and those lost and declining

	New and gains	Losses and declines
1900-1970	14	21
1971-1974	5	23
1995-2007	11	23
2008-2013	5	16

Almost all the losses and declines refer to species that have suffered a similar fate on a much wider scale, but four species fall outside that category. The habitat in and near the District for both Little Grebe and Tufted Duck is limited to the lakes at Trevereux and Squerryes. The declines noted have been only at the former (observations at the latter have been less frequent, but the Tufted Duck is still



Will the Swift follow the House Martin and become another lost breeder? (Mick Southcott)

present there in both the breeding season and in winter), as is the Little Grebe, which certainly bred there in 2013, so the reasons for their disappearance at Trevereux are presumably related to some aspect of the habitat there. Whether that is linked to the introduction of Carp there is unknown.

The most surprising change in the status of any species in the District is the Chiffchaff, for which there is clear evidence of a decline since 2007, yet it has

The collapse of the Turtle Dove and Cuckoo populations mirrors the national picture. (Turtle Dove, Mick Southcott; Cuckoo, Lee Dingain)



evidently prospered nationally. In the 19 years for which I have data prior to 2007, numbers fluctuated markedly from year to year, but the long-term trend was stable. According to Cramp (1992) its preferred habitat is mature woodland with not too dense a canopy and a fairly copious variety of medium or tallish undergrowth. Over the past 30 years the habitat on the Chart has gradually changed from areas of open heath with plenty of varied woodland edge to one that is dominated by young birch that has invaded the heath and is now a dense jungle of closely packed trees with no under-storey. Combined with the areas of close-planted pine that have been there throughout that period, it seems likely that much of the habitat is now unsuitable for this species and is perhaps a likely explanation for the apparent anomaly. The Pied Wagtail too is something of an anomaly, though as with Linnet, winter numbers are likely to be influenced by the availability of suitable food supplies on farmland. While The Atlas mentions population fluctuations and a decline of 11% in the UK Pied Wagtail population between 1995 and 2010, the maps do not indicate much change, but it has clearly declined both as a breeder and a visitor in the District. It is hard to identify what the reasons might be. Curiously, it is still present throughout the year in the centre of Oxted some 4km away and where there is, in at least some years, a winter roost.

Some comments can also be made on the negative changes in the context of the wider environment. In the case of the Kestrel, the Atlas maps do not indicate much change, but there was a 32% decline between 1995 and 2010. As noted, in the District the evidence is not conclusive, but there can be no doubt that it is now a much scarcer bird than five years ago. I have not included the Lapwing as a lost breeder, as it was effectively lost by 2005 and the nesting in 2009 was evidently a one-off. Given its poor breeding success in earlier years, it seems likely that the District had become a 'sink' and that the national decline made its loss here inevitable. Interestingly, there is

The decline of the Skylark appears to be tied closely to adverse farming practices. (Jonathan Lethbridge)



much less evidence of a national decline in winter, so its virtual disappearance from the District at that season is hard to explain. The inexorable decline to apparent extinction of the Turtle Dove in the District sadly mirrors its recent history over the whole of eastern and southern England. The evidence for the status of the Cuckoo in the District relies mainly on the frequency and consistency of its song and it is clear that on these measures a steep decline set in around the turn of the century. This reflects its recent history over a wide area - a population decline of 63% in England from 1995 to 2010 (but with much smaller declines in Wales and Scotland) and a loss of 21% across Europe as a whole since 1980. Although there has not been much change in the Swift's distribution in The Atlas period, it is noted that there has nevertheless been a decline of 38% from 1995 to 2010, so again we can conclude that the circumstances in the District are similar to the national picture.

Turning to the passerines, the Skylark has not only declined quite recently as a breeding species, but also as a winter visitor. The timing of the breeding decline is rather at odds with the national picture, its reduction as a breeding species having been reported for some decades. Indeed, for some years it has been a matter of some surprise (and relief) that I did not register a decline. As already noted it is not entirely obvious what triggered the decline and similar comments apply to its winter status at Trevereux, though the decline at Ridlands seems to be clearly related to impoverished habitat. Nationally there seems to be not much evidence of change at this season. Somewhat similar comments apply to the Meadow Pipit, for there is not much evidence of any change in winter nationally so the reasons for its decline in the District as a non-breeding visitor are obscure. In the case of Mistle Thrush, the Atlas indicates some relative decline in the south-east and notes a 35% decline in England between 1995 and 2010. Musgrove *et al* (2013), on the basis of early results from a 2012 survey thought that there were far lower numbers than in 1999 all of which would be consistent with events in the District. While there was no change in the distribution of the Garden Warbler in the United Kingdom, there was a 16% decline in England between 1995 and 2010. Although I have tabulated it as lost, it did make a welcome reappearance in 2013, but just for the one season, so given that suitable habitat still remains, there is at least a possibility of it reappearing. The change in status of the Willow Warbler has been very different to that of the Chiffchaff and its steady decline mirrors closely the national picture, the Atlas revealing a widespread decline in the number of tetrads occupied. The Atlas points to a similar pattern with other long-distance migrants such as Cuckoo and House Martin (lost as a breeding species in the District in 2001). The two finches that have either declined (Greenfinch) or been lost (Linnet) as breeding species have also declined nationally. The cause in the case of the Greenfinch has been attributed to the disease *trichomonosis*, first detected in 2005. The Atlas refers to several studies implicating changing farming practices in the decline of the Linnet, both in the breeding season and in winter. Certainly in the District there has recently been little in the way of stubble or other sources of seed until 2013-14, when a stubble field attracted a flock of up to 110. Preliminary results of a repeat national survey in 2012 suggested far lower numbers of Linnets than in 2009 (Musgrove *et al*, 2013). The Yellowhammer has been declining nationally for many

years, with a 55% reduction in breeding numbers between 1970 and 2010, so its decline in the District, both as a breeder and a winter visitor, came later than I had expected. As with so many similar species this has been a consequence of changed farming practices, especially noticeable at Ridlands in 2014 with some uncultivated fields almost devoid of vegetation. Although the national picture for Reed Bunting change has been somewhat patchy there were losses in the south-east, though the Atlas noted some areas of high concentration in areas of oil-seed rape. Interestingly most of the few recent records have been associated with this crop.

Conclusions

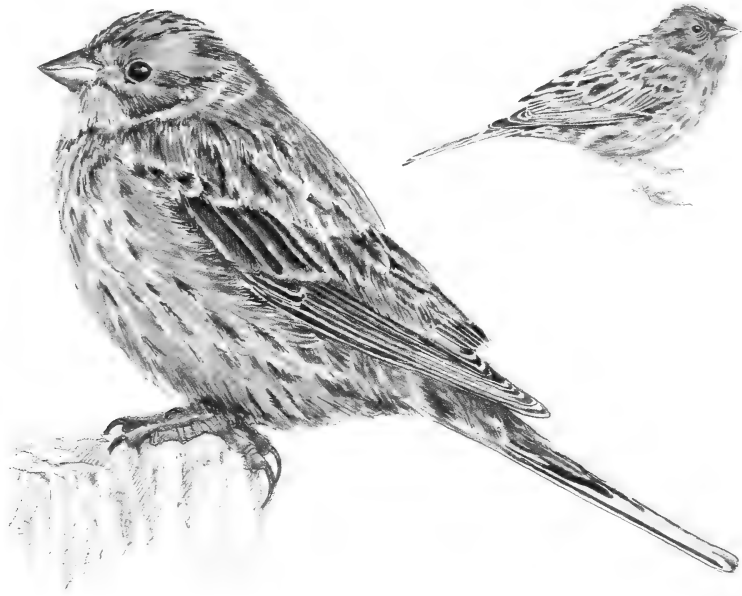
With a few exceptions there is little inherently surprising about the recent changes in the District when compared with the evidence from the wider LNHS Area and south-east England as a whole. Indeed some of these are mirrored on the Continent. The catastrophic effect of the fundamental changes in farming practice from the 1970s are well established and there seems little doubt that some of the recent declines in the District, for instance the decline in the Skylark, are likewise a reflection of poor (from an environmental perspective) land use. Other changes are yet to be satisfactorily explained, as with Cuckoo and Turtle Dove, but the experience of the past century and more, as evidenced in the District, gives little cause for optimism. The increases are of course welcome, but attitudes to raptors do not change and already there are vociferous demands for 'control' of Buzzards and there have been hints that this attitude might be affecting that species and possibly Raven not far from the District. Vigilance is required, but the fundamental issues and their control lie beyond any local area, resting with politicians driven by economic and population pressures and increasingly dismissive of environmental concerns. At a local level the crucial thing is to keep on monitoring and providing the necessary raw data for the conservation establishment - an important role for societies such as the LNHS.

Postscript

In autumn 2014, two small areas of stubble and weeds were left in fields at Ridlands and the effect was striking. In September these attracted up to 50 Meadow Pipits (the most since 2007) and 120 Linnets, which by November had increased to 150. At that time there were 25 Skylarks (the most for four years). As an example of the apparently direct effect of farming methods on our avifauna this could hardly be bettered.

Acknowledgements

My observations over the period of this study have been greatly enhanced by David Hepburn, who has made all his observations available to me as well as providing good company birding in the District. Other records have kindly been made available by David Adams, Jeff Cooper and Bill Haynes. Brian Thomas very kindly commented on a draft of this paper and made a number of very valuable suggestions. I am very grateful to all of them. I should also like to acknowledge the considerable help I received from Mike Trier when he cast his eagle eye over my draft.



As with the Skylark, the Yellowhammer held on for longer than many farmland birds, but has recently declined rapidly. (Dawn Painter)

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Appendix 1. Breeding, wintering and regular transient species for which there is no convincing evidence of change of status

Letters against each species denote basis of assessing lack of change, as follows:

F - flock or other counts; R - all records; S - subjective; T - territorial male or pair.

Mute Swan	R	Collared Dove	F	Blue Tit	S
Greylag Goose	F	Ring-necked Parakeet*	R	Great Tit	S
Canada Goose	F	Little Owl*	R	Coal Tit	S
Teal	R	Tawny Owl	R	Nuthatch	S
Mallard	R	Green Woodpecker	F	Treecreeper	T
Red-legged Partridge	R	Great Spotted Woodpecker	F	Jay	S
Pheasant	S	Swallow	T	Magpie*	S/F
Cormorant	R	Grey Wagtail	R	Jackdaw	F
Grey Heron	R	Wren	S	Rook*	T
Sparrowhawk	T	Duncock	T	Carrion Crow	F
Moorhen	R	Robin	S	Starling	F
Coot	R	Blackbird	S	House Sparrow*	T/F
Black-headed Gull	F	Fieldfare	F	Chaffinch*	S/F
Common Gull	F	Song Thrush	T	Brambling	R
Lesser Black-backed Gull	R	Redwing	F	Siskin	F
Herring Gull	R	Blackcap	T	Lesser Redpoll*	R
Great Black-backed Gull	R	Lesser Whitethroat	T	Crossbill	R
Feral Pigeon	F	Whitethroat*	T	Bullfinch	F
Stock Dove	T	Goldcrest*	S		
Woodpigeon*	S/F	Long-tailed Tit	F		

* Notes on selected species

Woodpigeon: Subjective for breeding population, but Flock counts for non-breeding numbers.

Ring-necked Parakeet: noted on only a few dates each year, even though resident and presumed breeding in Limpsfield, less than 1km from the edge of the District.

Little Owl: numbers declined sharply in 2012 and 2013, but limited data available and it is not clear if this reflects a real reduction.

Whitethroat: Territorial males have varied sharply from two to ten, but with no clear trend or obvious relationship to local environmental conditions.

Goldcrest: any status change uncertain consequent on author's reduced hearing capability.

Magpie: Subjective for breeding population, but Flock counts outside breeding season.

Rook: occurrence in District dependent primarily on rookery at Crockham Hill about 0.5km beyond the SE boundary of the District where nests have varied from 20 to 38, with no clear trend over either the study period or for as far back as 1980.

House Sparrow: counts of Territorial males in 2012 and 2013; Flock counts in other years and seasons.

Chaffinch: Subjective in breeding season, Flock counts in winter.

Lesser Redpoll: although no change was apparent in the District in the Study Period, winter numbers began to increase as a result of attraction to bird-feeders, in Oxted from at least 2010 and in the District from 2014.

THE BREEDING BIRD SURVEY IN LONDON

IAN WOODWARD, BTO NORTH LONDON CONTACT

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) was introduced in 1994 to provide a measure of the population changes of our common and widespread birds. One-kilometre squares are chosen at random by BBS organisers at the BTO. Each square is allocated to a volunteer, who makes two early-morning transect walks between April and June, separated by at least four weeks. The survey is repeated each year, following the same route. All birds observed are counted; not just those known to be breeding. By comparing counts of birds made on the same squares in successive years, it is possible to measure population changes.

Where species are sufficiently widespread, changes in population can be measured at regional level as well as at national level. This report covers the London government office region, and therefore does not represent the entire LNHS area (the 'London Area').

In 2013, a total of 111 squares were surveyed in the London region, the highest number since 2007 (see Table 1).

Table 1. Number of squares covered over the most recent ten years. Note that some totals from previous years have been updated to include late submissions.

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
89	91	103	118	108	110	104	98	97	111

In 2013, one species was seen (or heard) for the first time on BBS walks in London - Whinchat, bringing the total seen on London squares to 135 species. Other species recorded this year included Duntlin, Redstart and Grasshopper Warbler. A total of 11 Red-crested Pochard was the highest ever recorded. The BBS walks also suggested that some wintering thrushes were late to depart this year, with the highest ever totals for both Redwing (23) and Fieldfare (11) - in fact this is the first year that more than one Fieldfare has been recorded on BBS.

The most abundant species counted was Feral Pigeon (3,243 individuals), followed by Woodpigeon (2,734), and then Starling (2,348).

Table 2 shows the population changes in London between 2012/2013 and 1995/2012, compared with the change found nationally over these periods. The criterion for inclusion in the table is that a species occurs in an average of 30 squares per year over the survey period 1994 to 2013, which is considered to be the minimum number to provide reliable trends. As a result of the low number of squares covered in the early years of the survey, we can report on only 27 species, with Green Woodpecker and Chiffchaff both included this year for the first time.

Fifteen species show a statistically significant increase in London between 1995 and 2012, including Green Woodpecker and Chiffchaff, with the trend for Greenfinch no longer significant. The same seven species as last year show a significant decrease in London: Feral Pigeon; Swift; Starling; Blackbird; Song Thrush; Mistle Thrush; and House Sparrow.

Only four species showed statistically significant population changes between 2012 and 2013. In all four instances these were decreases (Ring-necked Parakeet, Song



Thrush, Mistle Thrush and Chaffinch). However, the decreases for Ring-necked Parakeet and Mistle Thrush both follow statistically significant increases between 2011 and 2012.

Although year to year changes have been variable, the underlying trend for both Mistle Thrush and Song Thrush has been downward since the beginning of the survey. The graph for Mistle Thrush is shown as an example (Fig 1). In contrast, the graph for Goldfinch has shown consistent increases since around 2000 (Fig 2). BBS trends graphs for all species within the London region can be viewed at:

www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/latest-results/trend-graphs/london-graphs.

Mistle Thrush
BBS index for
London
1994-2013

Key

-  Smoothed trend
-  Annual indices

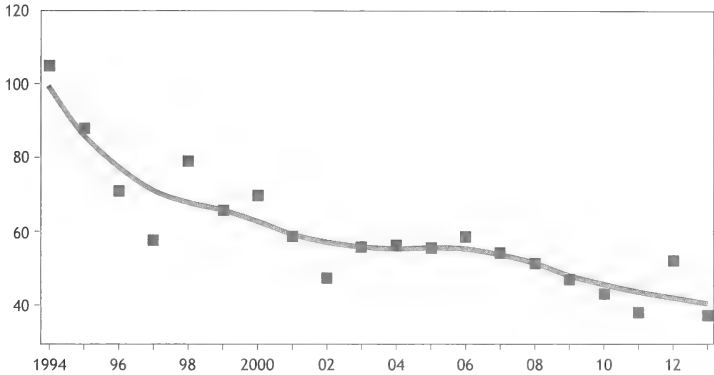




Figure 1: Graph showing the BBS trend for Mistle Thrush in the London government office region. The grey line is the smoothed trend, the squares represent the annual indices.

Goldfinch
BBS index for
London
1994-2013

Key

-  Smoothed trend
-  Annual indices

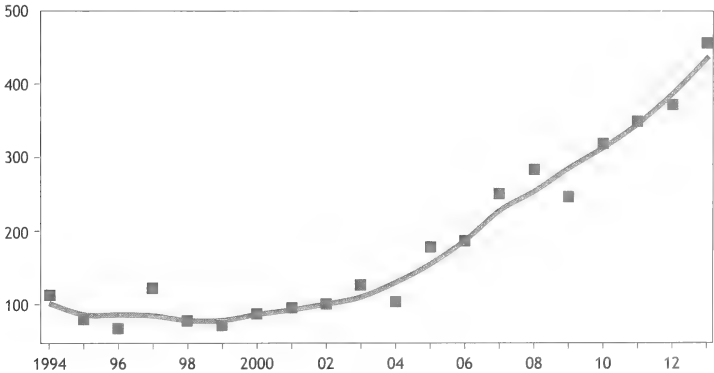


Figure 2: Graph showing the BBS trend for Goldfinch in the London government office region. The grey line is the smoothed trend, the squares represent the annual indices.

Editorial note: The BBS index tables are based on the annual population changes, with 1994 set to the nominal figure of 100 and subsequent values calculated accordingly. A detailed account of the methodology is on the BBS pages of the BTO website: <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/research-conservation/methodology>

Table 2. Population changes in numbers of birds in the BTO's London region compared with the UK. (lcl=lower confidence limit; ucl=upper confidence limit; figures in blue type are statistically significant). The long term trend has been smoothed. As smoothing involves truncation of the end points this trend is labelled as 1995/2012, even though the survey period covered is from 1994 to 2013.

	Sample size	Change 2012/2013	Change 2012/2013	Change 1995/2012	Change 1995/2012	Change 1995/2012	Change 1995/2012
	London	London	UK	London	London	London	UK
					lcl	ucl	
Mallard	41	1	-4	-13	-40	37	17
Feral Pigeon	69	1	5	-23	-34	-6	-17
Woodpigeon	78	-9	-3	55	24	89	42
Collared Dove	51	-2	0	15	-22	61	16
Ring-necked Parakeet	35	-10	-2	>10000			1060
Swift	57	-21	-3	-52	-67	-30	-38
Green Woodpecker	30	14	-2	78	25	156	38
Great Sp Woodpecker	35	4	0	87	47	130	139
Magpie	77	-3	-5	28	8	55	-1
Jay	38	4	17	2	-26	46	25
Carrion Crow	78	-1	2	52	18	102	17
Blue Tit	77	2	-4	25	3	58	5
Great Tit	72	8	-1	137	101	204	43
Long-tailed Tit	31	-23	-34	68	7	175	15
Chiffchaff	30	-11	-27	166	68	308	88
Blackcap	42	-9	-19	153	98	258	137
Wren	72	-5	-4	28	8	50	-3
Starling	76	11	1	-51	-62	-38	-51
Blackbird	78	-5	-4	-26	-37	-14	21
Song Thrush	49	-20	-3	-35	-51	-17	5
Mistle Thrush	33	-29	-9	-52	-69	-29	-34
Robin	75	6	1	82	49	123	7
Dunnock	58	5	-4	12	-16	52	21
House Sparrow	66	-5	-7	-70	-79	-61	-2
Chaffinch	54	-23	-7	137	74	331	11
Greenfinch	60	-10	-13	41	-1	94	-23
Goldfinch	44	23	-15	327	179	612	112

Editorial note: 'Sample size London' is the mean number of squares per year on which the species was recorded over the course of the BBS survey (1994-2013 for the 2013 paper). The figures in the remaining columns are percentages. Writing explanatory text would be complicated, to convey something that is both accurate and concise, so interested readers should visit the BBS pages on the BTO website:

<http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/latest-results/population-trends>

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THE BREEDING BIRDS OF LONDON WETLAND CENTRE

JAN WILCZUR

Introduction

Barn Elms Reservoirs in Barnes, south-west London, were constructed at the end of the 19th century and became an important site for wintering wildfowl. This was recognised by their designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 1975. After 100 years of use they were decommissioned in 1989. The future of the site was in doubt but thankfully the wish of Sir Peter Scott, founder of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), for an urban wetland reserve was realised and the London Wetland Centre (LWC) was created. When the four reservoir basins were drained they in effect became a wetland, noticeably attracting more migrant and wintering waders, a group of birds that had otherwise been poorly represented. This was a hint of what was to come. There was still a distinct lack of breeding species - as had always been the case. The banks of the reservoirs were levelled and landscaping the new Reserve began. For a while the site was a bare muddy wasteland and on a wintry day in 1995 the author recorded only a single bird - an adult Great Black-backed Gull. What a contrast to the present day. The diversity of wetland habitats, grassland, scrub and woodland at this relatively small reserve now host numerous birds of great variety all year round, most notably during the breeding season. Some of these are of conservation concern and the Reserve should play a vital role in sustaining these species. In 2002 the site was re-notified as a SSSI, not only for nationally important wintering numbers of Gadwall and Shoveler but also for an outstanding breeding bird assemblage associated with lowland open waters and their margins.

The purpose of this paper is to list the species that have bred or attempted to breed, on and beside the Reserve. An indication of their abundance and how their populations

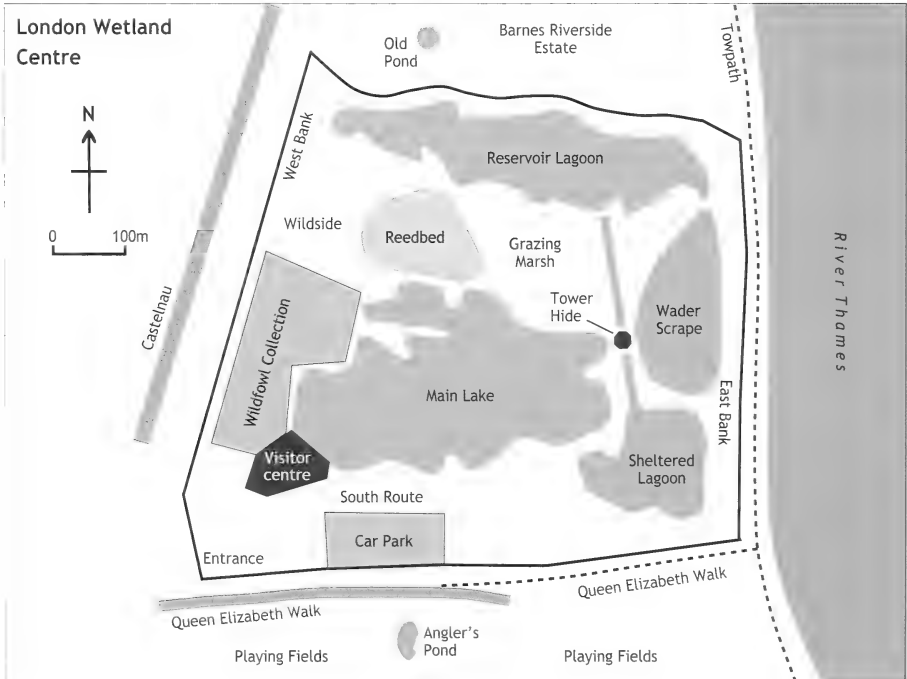
A pair of Little Ringed Plovers. (Jan Wilczur)



have changed is also given. Since it opened in May 2000 the Reserve has hosted 53 breeding species, six have attempted to breed and seven species nest on its fringes - this totals 66 species. Nine others are listed that breed in the vicinity and are regularly seen during the breeding season.

The 42 hectares of the Reserve, for the most part, consist of a few large water-bodies of varying depth fringed with reeds and other marginal vegetation; islands - many of shingle; a scrape in which the water-level is varied to expose fresh mud; seasonally flooded grassland or marsh; a reedbed; and a small area of fen. These are surrounded by small pools, grassland, scrub, and wet and dry woodland. Beyond the periphery of the Reserve are other habitats that are in effect contiguous with the site: birds tend not to recognise fences as boundaries. To the north is the Barnes Riverside housing estate, constructed alongside the creation of the Reserve and the old Harrods Depository. Beyond the perimeter fence are maturing gardens and the old pond with a small reedbed - a remnant from the days of the Reservoirs, as is an area of allotments. To the east are the tidal River Thames and a towpath lined with mature trees. On the southern side is Queen Elizabeth Walk - the entrance road and path leading to the River. These separate the Reserve from a large area of playing fields that contain a small wood and an anglers' pond. To the west are the large and mature gardens of Castelnau, the main road that leads to Hammersmith Bridge.

Simplified plan of the London Wetland Centre. A detailed map can be downloaded at <http://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/london/plan-your-visit/london-map/>



Situated in a loop of the River Thames immediately to the west of central London - indeed it lies just outside the Inner London recording area of the London Natural History Society - the Reserve forms part of a larger area of natural habitats in this part of south-west London. Further south are Barnes and Putney Commons and beyond these the large expanses of Wimbledon Common and Richmond Park. Together they form an important area for wildlife within the confines of one of the world's great cities.

There had been a long tradition of bird recording at Barn Elms Reservoirs, and in their last few years the local bird-watchers formed an informal group and used a log-book of sightings housed in a hut. Two of them, Rupert Hastings and Jonathan Mitchell, wrote bird reports for the site covering 1991 and 1992. When the Reservoirs were due for redevelopment the Barn Elms Natural History Group (BENHG) was formed in 1993 by the local bird-watchers and naturalists. One of the first actions of the Group was to submit a pamphlet to the planning department of Richmond Council describing the birds at the site and supporting the creation of a wetland reserve. The aim of the Group was to maintain access to the site in order to monitor wildlife during the redevelopment process. The Group has continued its brief since the opening of the Reserve and has made an invaluable contribution to the study of the wildlife there. It produced the London Wetland Centre Bird & Natural History Report covering the first three years of the Reserve, comprehensively documenting the birds and wildlife at the Reserve and including background history of the birders and birding at the site.

I have been a regular and at times frequent visitor to first Barn Elms Reservoirs, then the London Wetland Centre. For nearly forty years I have actively recorded birds at the site. I was a founding member of BENHG and during the development of the new Reserve I assisted in monitoring birds. Inspired by the wealth of new breeding species, I surveyed many of the wetland birds even before the Reserve opened and then almost all the breeding species in 2002 and 2003. I instigated the LWC Bird & Natural History Report which I co-wrote, illustrated and edited with other members of BENHG. I continued monitoring wetland species until 2007. After a break from visiting the London Wetland Centre for a few years I returned and resumed monitoring of the waders and a few of the key wetland species. In 2013 I undertook a complete breeding bird survey to contrast and compare with those I carried out in 2002 and 2003.

Systematic List

Key

Species name in **bold** = has bred either at or beside the Reserve. Some species have territories which lie across the perimeter of the Reserve but may nest just beyond the boundary. These are included in the breeding data and in the list of breeding birds.

Species name in **bold italic** = has either attempted to breed at the Reserve or breeds in its vicinity and is regularly recorded during the breeding season.

Species status at the Reserve is given by the following codes:

Br = Breeds regularly at or beside Reserve	R = Rare, recorded once or twice
Bs = Breeds sporadically at or beside Reserve	S = Summer visitor
Bx = No longer breeds	Sc = Scarce, recorded in a few years
O = Occasional, recorded in most years	W = Winter visitor
P = Passage migrant	Y = Recorded in every month of the year

Canada Goose YBr, introduced: This problematic feral species became established while the Reserve was in development and for many years it was commonest of the breeding wildfowl. The Reserve is also one of the most important breeding sites in the London Area. Breeding is controlled so the number of goslings fledging each year is in single figures. Other methods of control have only a temporary effect on the local population. The effect of Canada Geese on other breeding water birds has not been assessed but can only be assumed to be negative given the numbers that occur. Even the methods of control during the breeding season, in which the main part of the Reserve is accessed, may present problems for other breeding water birds. There have been cases of scarce and rare breeding species deserting the site due to disturbance from this activity. The table gives the number of breeding pairs and the number of fledged young each year:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
38	35	40	33	46	41	32	35	33	27	36	22	31	34
2	1	4	4	2	1	3	0	2	1	1	3	2	5

Egyptian Goose YBs, introduced, RBBP: Given that this, yet another feral wildfowl species, is well established in parks in south-west London, it may be considered a surprise that it did not start breeding at the Reserve until 2012. The brood of eight goslings that hatched were soon whittled down to one and this too disappeared. In 2013 a pair was present but there was no evidence of breeding.

Shelduck O, amber: As soon as the Reserve opened a pair lingered that spring. Since then pairs have regularly appeared in spring and have been observed prospecting for nest-sites. The provision of nest-boxes, partly buried in the shingle of islands in the Lake and Scrape, gave rise to the hope that breeding would take place. So far it has yet to

Pair of Garganey. (Jan Wilczur)



happen and with the recent decline in the London Area, both as a breeder and in winter, this hope may now be a forlorn one.

Gadwall YBr, amber: Since the Reserve opened Gadwall have been present throughout the year, albeit in smaller numbers in summer. Breeding was expected to take place and eventually did so in 2008. The number of breeding sites in the London Area is only in single figures so if the Reserve can maintain its breeding population it will be of some importance. The numbers of broods have increased slightly since 2008:

2008 - 1	2009 - 2	2010 - 4	2011 - 2	2012 - 2	2013 - 4
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Eurasian Teal YBs, amber: The presence of a few summering birds after the Reserve opened suggested breeding might take place one year. It did not do so, however, until 2012 when a brood of two ducklings was discovered. This was the first confirmed breeding in the London Area for ten years. There was a report of another brood in 2013 but this could not be confirmed. A pair was present until mid-May that year but was disturbed by management work on the Grazing Marsh.

Mallard YBr, amber: Initially the commonest breeding duck on the Reserve making it an important breeding site in the London Area. At first numbers of broods increased each year to reach a peak of 29 in 2003. Since then broods have usually numbered between 20 and 25. Assessing breeding success for ducks is troublesome due to the difficulty in establishing the number of nesting females. Nests and newly hatched broods may be predated before being observed and predation of ducklings may occur at a high rate given the number and variety of potential predators. Thus fledging success is difficult to quantify. The low count of broods in 2012 may have been due to the cool wet spring and summer, a negative influence on the breeding success of many species at the Reserve that year. The 21 broods in 2013 were found to consist of at least 98 ducklings. The number of broods recorded each year is given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
16	18	25	29	20	17	25	22	24	23	25	22	14	21

Northern Pintail WRBs, locally introduced, amber: In the first few years of the Reserve there was a small, local and presumably feral population of this otherwise scarce winter visitor. They were often found nearby on the River Thames at Wandsworth and perhaps originated from the wildfowl collections at the Central London parks. In 2001 two broods of two and one were observed but none of the ducklings fledged. In 2002 a brood of nine was found in the wildfowl collection but none survived. The location of this latter brood lent weight to the assumption that most of the occurrences at the Reserve were of feral birds. Subsequently a small wintering population has become regular and as expected there been no further breeding attempts.

Garganey P, amber, schedule one, RBBP: This nationally rare breeding duck and summer visitor is a scarce passage migrant at the Reserve. Pairs have appeared in spring as have single males. In April 2003 a pair stayed for a fortnight settling by a particular

part of the Lake. They were disturbed, however, by management work but relocated to the Grazing Marsh. Unfortunately they were disturbed yet again by more work. On this occasion they left the Reserve altogether. Either the same pair, or another, appeared in May and stayed nine days but there was no evidence of nesting. Regrettably the management work, which did not appear to be essential, was not postponed until at least it could certain whether or not the birds were going to breed. A rare opportunity to add this charismatic and highly protected duck to the breeding list of the Reserve was missed. In 2008 a male was present from late-February to mid-May. On the last day of its stay it was joined by a female.

Northern Shoveler YBs, amber, RBBP: Like the other dabbling duck species that commonly occur in winter a few birds spend the summer. Breeding eventually took place in 2013 when three broods were noted. This was a significant event given that only a few single broods had been recorded elsewhere in the London Area in the last few years.

Common Pochard YBr, amber, RBBP: A reluctant colonist at first, breeding numbers were noteworthy between 2006 and 2010. But following the trend in London, numbers of broods of this nationally rare breeding duck have since declined. The number of broods each year is given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
1	1	2	0	1	3	7	6	6	8	7	5	4	4

Tufted Duck YBr, amber: After a comprehensive survey in 2002, when 33 broods were found, this species has usually held the position of commonest breeding duck at the Reserve, although numbers of broods have fluctuated. The adverse weather in the breeding season of 2012 probably accounts for the low number of broods that year. In 2013, after a concerted effort, a remarkable 67 broods were counted with extraordinary numbers of ducklings present. On a day in late August around 200 were counted and broods of 23 and 20 were noted, presumably from two clutches of eggs in a nest. In total a minimum of 402 ducklings were hatched. An assessment of productivity was made by counting fully-grown young at the end of summer - 181 were present. The Reserve was second only to RSPB Rye Meads in importance as a breeding site in the London Area, but if the numbers of broods of 2013 can be maintained it will be first. The number of broods each year is as follows:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
12	15	33	20	27	14	31	21	31	32	38	30	17	67

Ruddy Duck RBx, introduced: This native of North America, whose British feral population was derived from escapes from the collection at WWT Slimbridge, soon found the Reserve to its favour. Due to the risk of hybridisation with its endangered Eurasian counterpart, the White-headed Duck, there was a nationwide cull from 2002. Breeding numbers managed to peak at ten broods in 2004, by which time the Reserve had become the main breeding site in the London Area. Numbers fell away the next year and it disappeared as a breeding species in 2011. The number of broods for each year is given:

Ruddy Duck

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
4	2	7	9	10	2	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	0

Little Grebe YBr, amber: The fragmented nature of the water-bodies at the Reserve with their heavily vegetated margins proved ideal for this species making the Reserve an important breeding site in the London Area. In early years breeding productivity was high with 10 broods of 24 young hatched in 2001 and 12 broods of 30 young in 2002. Since then, although not measured, productivity seems to have fallen - no doubt due to the influx of predators. Breeding numbers have been fairly stable between 8 and 13 pairs but reached a maximum of 15 in 2013. The number of breeding pairs for each year is given in the table below:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
10	11	13	13	8	12	10	10	12	9	9	11	8	15

Great Crested Grebe YBr: The main water bodies of the Reserve attracted a significant breeding population in a London context. Breeding success, however, was variable at best. A particular pair successfully fledged young for a few years while others failed at some point in their breeding cycle. Nest vandalism by Coots is certainly a problem. Breeding numbers halved but have remained stable for the last five years, while productivity has declined. The numbers of breeding pairs and fledged young for each year are as follows:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
6	6	6	5	5	3	2	4	2	3	3	3	3	3
3	6	3	2	3	3	0	4	2	4	2	2	0	1

Water Rail family. (Jan Wilczur)

Grey Heron YBr: Up to three pairs breed beside the anglers' pond at the adjacent Barn Elms playing fields. The nearest nest is just 30 metres from the Reserve boundary. The adults and fledged young are regularly seen on the Reserve. The number of breeding pairs and fledged young for each year is given in the table below:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
1	1	0	1	1	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	1
1	1	0	1	0	2	3	2	0	2	2	2	2	1

Sparrowhawk YBs: Often seen hunting over the Reserve and breeds in the surrounding area. In 2013 a pair nested in small trees in the north-west corner and in so doing became the first and only breeding raptor at the Reserve. They hatched three young but one was found dead beneath the nest: hardly surprising as the nest did seem too small to accommodate three fully-grown chicks. The other two young fledged successfully.

Kestrel Y, amber: Like the previous species, hunts over the Reserve and breeds near by. Its appearances are not as regular as those in the early years of the Reserve, probably due to the maturing of the planting reducing the amount of open areas over which they can hunt. Its habit of nesting in a cavity of a large tree would seem to preclude breeding here.

Hobby S, schedule one, RBBP: This raptor, often associated with wetlands, soon became a regular visitor to the Reserve on hunting forays. In 2001 a family party of four were frequently seen in late summer suggesting local breeding. Indeed for a couple of years a pair bred a kilometre away; the adults were noted flying off with prey in the direction of the nest. At this time the Sand Martin colony was at its peak and the Hobbies undoubtedly took advantage of this convenient source of prey. Since this particular local pair disappeared, for whatever reason, sightings have become fewer and further between.

Peregrine Falcon Y, schedule one, RBBP: As part of the colonisation of London a pair took up residence at Charing Cross Hospital in 2008, the other side of the River Thames from the Reserve. They can be seen from the Reserve perched near the top of the Hospital. The Reserve and River offer abundant prey although they are only occasionally seen hunting, probably because they search for prey high above and unseen. When they do swoop down at prey it is swift and easily unnoticed. Once in a while they visit one of the islands on the Lake to bathe and preen.

Water Rail YBs, RBBP: This elusive but characteristic inhabitant of reedbeds established itself as a resident as soon as the Reserve opened. Breeding was first confirmed with the sighting of a juvenile in 2001. In the following year two family parties were seen. The number of territories each year is given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
2	2	7	9	3	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	0	1

Special tape-luring surveys were used to assess both breeding and wintering numbers and both were found to be significant in terms of the London Area. When undertaking

the spring survey the distribution of territorial birds was found to be dependent on the presence of old growth reeds. In the first few years of rotational reed-cutting large stands were cut. It was these areas that were devoid of calling birds. BENHG suggested that the areas of reeds to be cut were reduced in size to create more of a mosaic of different aged reeds within the reedbed. On introducing this practice the numbers of territories quickly rose to a peak of nine making the Reserve by far the most important breeding site in the London Area. The main reedbed appeared to be so full of territorial birds that a few smaller outlying areas were utilised.

Unfortunately this peak year coincided with the colonisation of the Reserve by foxes which presumably had a deleterious effect on breeding numbers - so much so that the only breeding pair was within the confines of the wildfowl collection, protected by a fox-proof fence. This pair bred successfully, despite the close proximity of visitors, their young usually being seen each year. It was disappointing then, due to landscaping work close to their small reedbed, that this remaining pair disappeared by 2009. Since then there seemed to be a slight recovery but numbers have again declined to just the sporadic single territory. Unless the local fox population is controlled more effectively, perhaps making a concerted effort in early spring to reduce their numbers, it seems unlikely that Water Rails will recover their former numbers. The reedbeds in spring will not resound, as they once did, to the eerie calls of Water Rails at dawn and dusk.

Moorhen YBr: The array of small pools and larger water-bodies with heavily vegetated margins provide optimal habitat for this common wetland species. The breeding population soon reached a peak of 57 pairs by 2002, which was the first year of a thorough survey. Numbers of broods then fell away probably due to less rigorous monitoring. The influx of a variety of predator species such as foxes and Grey Herons were no doubt also an influence. The bad spring weather of 2012 may be the most important factor in the poor number of broods that year. In an intensive survey in 2013 a remarkable 92 pairs were found, nearly a third of these in the safety of the wildfowl collection. However, only a minimum of 36 broods was counted, with 21 of these being within the collection. This suggests that predatory rates were high elsewhere on the Reserve, although finding broods on the Reserve was more difficult given the nature of the habitat and the furtiveness of nesting birds. The breeding population at the Reserve is of great significance in the London Area. The following table gives the number of broods seen each year:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
14	15	50	26	23	24	36	30	31	30	34	30	18	36

Coot YBr: Like the previous species it quickly took advantage of the range of wetland habitats to establish a sizeable breeding population. The intensive survey of 2002 produced a result of 83 pairs, making the Reserve one of the most important breeding sites in the London Area. The comparison with the number broods seen that year indicates the high rate of attrition of eggs and young. In subsequent years monitoring has not been so thorough. In 2013, when another intensive survey was undertaken, 76 pairs were found with a minimum of 36 broods. In contrast with Moorhen there were no

pairs in the wildfowl collection. The following table gives the number of broods seen each year:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
25	22	52	33	26	26	38	26	31	28	21	24	17	36

Avocet PBs, amber, schedule one, RBBP: In 2006 and 2008 single pairs bred unsuccessfully. When a couple of birds appeared in April 2006 there was no expectation of breeding as this species, emblematic of bird conservation in the UK, occurred occasionally in spring as a passage migrant. When they lingered, were seen mating and were obviously a pair the exciting prospect of breeding was considered even though breeding had occurred only twice before in the London Area. The pair nested on the long shingle island in front of the Visitor Centre and hatched four chicks. The parents were typically combative repelling both potential predators and intrusive neighbours. After the chicks hatched the family stayed in the vicinity of the nest for a couple of days then undertook a perilous journey to the Scrape where they settled and all appeared to be well. The news of the family was announced in the national and local media. Unfortunately the chicks were all predated by the usual suspects - Crows, foxes and Grey Herons. Coincidentally four pairs bred that year, one doing so successfully, at the RSPB reserve at Rainham downriver on the east side of London.

In mid-May 2008 a pair nested on an area of mud exposed by low water-levels and laid three eggs. Prospects did not look promising, the nest being almost flooded but for the actions of a quick-witted member of staff who opened a sluice during a period of heavy rain. A week later the nest was abandoned.

Little Ringed Plover SBs, schedule one, RBBP: This delightful species, along with Lapwing, has been the most intensely monitored of all the breeding species at the Reserve. It was the only wader species that bred at the old Barn Elms Reservoirs - in a disused filter bed. During the development of the Reserve advantage was taken of the developing habitats; the shallow pools, bare mud and shingle providing ideal nesting and feeding opportunities. Breeding numbers soon rose to a level which was sustained for several years and productivity was on the whole reasonable. The Reserve was one of the most important breeding sites in the London Area.

The table below gives the number of breeding pairs with the corresponding number of fledged young:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
6	7	7	7	7	8	5	2	1	2	2	1	2	1
3	1	8	1	5	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

The introduction of protective cages for nests proved invaluable for allowing clutches to hatch and for the chicks to use as refuges, safe from the attentions of marauding Crows. In 2002 it was demonstrated how effective these were when the first seven nests of the season were protected - 17 chicks hatched and six of these fledged. Unaccountably, the following eight nests were left uncovered with disastrous results - only two chicks hatched and these were from a very late nest that was situated in dense

vegetation. In four years of using nest-cages 20 protected nests fledged 17 young and 19 unprotected nests fledged four young.

In 2006 there was no nesting at all despite the presence of five pairs. Thereafter the use of cages diminished and along with the spread of vegetation on most of the shingle islands and the continued presence of Crows, the breeding population quickly declined and only one chick fledged in the following seven years. Flooding the Scrape in winter to reduce the vegetation on the shingle islands, as well as spraying in early spring, has helped to maintain some suitable nesting areas. It seems though the presence of Crows is an important factor in preventing recolonisation of the Reserve, as well as the flooding regime in the Scrape during spring.

Ringed Plover P, amber: In April and May 2002 up to four birds were present. There were display flights, nest-scraping and a pair were seen to mate - but no eggs were laid. That year there were around 20 pairs breeding in the London Area but a decline led to only a handful in 2012.

Northern Lapwing YBr, red: One of the most welcome sights when the Reserve was in development was that of Lapwings in their eye-catching courtship display flight. The full panoply of breeding activity could be viewed at close quarters: courtship, mating, nesting and the rearing of chicks. It was remarkable to witness the colonisation of an urban reserve by this charming species; one that is suffering a serious national decline. The Reserve is an important breeding site for this species in the London Area. In its first year a reasonable number of young were fledged but sadly since then, despite an increase in breeding pairs, productivity has fallen to a low level. In seven years only up to a couple of chicks have fledged. This is well short of what a study has shown - that Lapwings need to fledge 0.6-0.8 young per pair to maintain a self-sustaining population. This has only been achieved in two years of the Reserve's existence. The table below gives the number of breeding pairs and the number of fledged young:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
9	11	13	12	11	13	13	11	11	12	10	13	16	16
7	1	1	2	1	3	3	4	2	6	6	0	0	5

At first birds nested on the bare shingle islands of the Lake and Scrape. The Grazing Marsh, seemingly a more suitable location for nesting, appeared to be avoided. This was probably due to the presence of foxes and a sizeable flock of non-breeding Crows which, when not foraging on the exposed substrate of the River at low tide, would use the Marsh as a loafing area. Lapwings prefer bare soil on which to nest but the bare shingle islands seemed to make them vulnerable and many first clutches were predated, as were early broods. Most pairs would lay again, although with smaller clutches. Later broods had better chances of survival as, during the course of the spring, vegetation developed in which chicks could hide. However, the number and variety of predator species, such as Crow, fox, Grey Heron and perhaps brown rat still meant survival rates were low.

The installation of a fox-proof fence around the Grazing Marsh and Scrape in time for the 2012 breeding season gave rise to some optimism. Four pairs of Lapwings settled on

the Marsh to nest, the first time so many had done so, and hatched nine young. Unfortunately the fence did not live up to its name, foxes gained entry and all the nesting Lapwings failed. The cool wet spring in that year must have also been a factor. The securing of the fence in time for the following spring contributed to a record of at least 30 young being hatched. Sadly many were still predated. Families of Crows around the Reserve hinted at one of the likely causes. It is regrettable that this once iconic bird of the countryside cannot be supported in recovering its numbers, even to a small degree, at a purpose-built wetland reserve.

Common Redshank SBs, amber: The third and largely least successful of the three regular breeding waders, and also the slowest to colonise the Reserve. When they have bred successfully productivity has been good as the number of young fledged has equalled or exceeded the numbers of pairs present. However only four out of 13 years have seen fledged young. The number of breeding pairs with the number of fledged young is given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
1	1	3	3	4	3	5	5	5	2	2	2	1	2
0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	3

Redshanks suffer aggression from Lapwings but nest a little later in the spring after the Lapwings have settled. Their nests are usually in thicker vegetation and so probably go unnoticed as do young broods, but as the chicks get older they become more obvious. They still seem to suffer a similar degree of egg and chick predation and this was

Lapwing family. (Jan Wilczur)



exemplified in 2002 when a pair nesting on an island on the Scrape was the first to hatch young on the Reserve. The chicks had just hatched when the parents were distracted by a Grey Heron standing idly near by. In the commotion a pair of loitering Crows nimbly stepped in and took the chicks. This species just maintains a foothold at the Reserve while it declines elsewhere in the London Area.

The breeding waders of the Reserve are some of the most obvious and attractive inhabitants with their display flights, territorial disputes, aggressive displays in defending their nests and young, and their anxiety calls when their chicks are wandering about. The urban setting makes their presence more remarkable and it should be valued. The number of breeding pairs and productivity has fallen short of what was aimed for in the Reserve's management plan. It would be disappointing if they are not enabled to breed with success and flourish.

Black-headed Gull YBr, amber: Has bred since 2012 - numbers of nesting pairs and resulting young are given:

2012 - 4 pairs, at least 2 young hatched, none fledged

2013 - 10 pairs, 16 young hatched of which 15 fledged

Given the year-round presence of this species, along with its expansion in the London Area, breeding seemed a possibility. Hints were given by birds collecting nest material and even building rudimentary nests. When the tern rafts were occupied by nesting pairs there was concern for the already established Common Terns. The latter are, in fact, more widespread in the London Area but not so numerous. The adult gulls are watchful and quick to warn of the presence of potential predators, especially the Lesser Black-backed Gulls which have taken to patrol the Reserve for prey in recent years. It remains to be seen if the colony expands further still and what the effect will be on other wetland species, particularly the waders. These have suffered predation from nesting Black-headed Gulls at other wetland reserves.

Black-headed Gull family. (Jan Wilczur)



Common Tern SBr, amber: The provision of a nesting raft in 2004 on the Lake, at the request of BENHG, led to immediate colonisation. Until that year the hope was that this species would nest on islands, attracted by square wooden frames partially buried in shingle mimicking tern rafts. A second floating raft helped to boost numbers as did the addition of a third. Breeding success was generally good with around the same number of fledged young as breeding pairs. The number of breeding pairs and fledged young are given below:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
0	0	1	1	2	5	8	10	7	7	7	9	12	7
0	0	2	2	2	5	13	9	8	4	7	11	3	7

A raft was installed on the Reservoir Lagoon in 2011 but was not immediately used. Numbers peaked in 2012 but only a few chicks fledged. The cool wet spring and summer was probably a factor as perhaps was the colonisation by Black-headed Gulls which nested alongside the terns, although there were no observations of direct predation. With more than a doubling of numbers of gulls on the rafts the next year, the number of terns was reduced but breeding success improved. It remains to be seen how the terns will be affected in the long term by the expected increase in Black-headed Gulls.

Feral Pigeon YBr, introduced: Not surveyed. A flock resides at the Visitor Centre taking advantage of the food put out for the captive wildfowl. Breeding takes place but has never been quantified.

Stock Dove Y, amber: Breeds locally at Barnes Common and Lonsdale Road Local Nature Reserve and is frequently seen all year in small numbers.

Woodpigeon YBr: Not surveyed until 2013 when 28 territories were recorded. Common on and around the Reserve and neglected in terms of monitoring, the first instance of breeding on the Reserve itself passed unnoticed.

Collared Dove YBr: Not surveyed until 2013 when ten territories were counted. A pair possibly bred in 2007. It was originally a scarce passage migrant usually seen flying over. Colonisation of the immediate vicinity of the Reserve presumably occurred after 2007 - a territorial bird was seen in 2009. To begin with, pairs nested in the gardens of Castelneau adjacent to the western boundary. Birds are frequently encountered along the west bank and within the wildfowl collection, where breeding eventually occurred. It is reasonable to suppose that without the presence of the Reserve this species would not have established itself in Barnes.

Ring-necked Parakeet YBs, introduced: Not surveyed until 2012 when one breeding pair was found on Queen Elizabeth Walk. In the early years of the Reserve small flocks of this noisy exotic escapee would just fly over but then birds began to perch in the trees of the south-east corner of the Reserve. Breeding may have taken place in this area unnoticed. The Visitor Centre is now popular with Parakeets and they can be seen perching in the trees of the courtyard.



Sand Martin family. (Jan Wilczur)

As yet this rapidly increasing and spreading species appears not to have had a significant negative effect on native wildlife, difficult as that may be to believe considering the very large numbers in south-west London and in particular Richmond Park. However, a recent study has shown they deter smaller native birds visiting feeders in gardens. The possible impact on commercial fruit-growers is also a concern and may be the only way that the government is persuaded to control this species. (The apparently innocuous accidental introduction of Ruddy Duck to the UK eventually resulted in a very expensive eradication programme.)

Tawny Owl YY: There is usually a territory in the wood at the adjacent playing fields and calling birds can be heard along Queen Elizabeth Walk and in the Castelnau gardens. Birds also probably hunt at the Reserve.

Common Swift S, amber: Nest-boxes were installed during the construction of the Visitor Centre but failed to attract any interest. Feeding flocks occurring during the summer presumably contain locally breeding birds. There has been a long-term decline of this species in the London Area.

Kingfisher YBs, amber, Schedule One: A pair attempted to breed in 2006 in an artificial nesting bank with partially created nesting tunnels, which was installed beside one of the hides. Even though they are regular visitors to the Reserve and breed locally along Beverley Brook to the south, a few years passed before the bank attracted a pair. A day was spent by the pair excavating their own tunnel but the attempt was abandoned. A nest bank made from soil situated in a quiet part of the Sheltered Lagoon has so far failed to attract a pair.

Green Woodpecker YBr, amber: Not surveyed apart from 2002 and 2003 when a pair was present and 2013 when there were two territories, one just to the south and one to the west in the Castelnau gardens. The lack of fully mature trees probably prevents nesting taking place at the Reserve. Adults are frequently seen foraging all year and usually a few juveniles in summer.

Great Spotted Woodpecker YBr: Not surveyed apart from 2002 and 2003 when a pair was present and 2013 when there were two pairs. Similarly there were territories adjacent to the southern and western boundaries, although birds were also seen in the trees lining the towpath. Not as obvious during the breeding season as the previous species but still encountered all year along with juveniles in summer.

Sand Martin SBr, amber: A pair feeding two juveniles in late June 2000 suggested breeding had taken place unnoticed either at or near the Reserve. A few birds were present in June in both 2001 and 2002 and a family party including three juveniles appeared in early July of the latter year, again indicating local breeding. In 2003 a bird was seen carrying nest material but there was no evidence of breeding. The installation of a nesting bank besides the Scrape at the suggestion of BENHG ensured breeding at the Reserve and it was occupied in its first season. Numbers quickly increased and peaked in 2007 making the colony one of the largest in London. The table gives the number of breeding pairs for each year:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
1?	0	1	0	12	33	74	87	78	75	61	48	29	26

Worryingly, there has been a considerable decline since 2007, reflected elsewhere in London. Checking the nesting cavities after the breeding season in recent years has demonstrated that fewer are used than there first appear to be. The reduced numbers in 2012 may have been influenced by the poor weather in the spring of that year. Studies have also shown that rainfall at both wintering and breeding areas affects annual survival rates and leads to wide fluctuations in numbers arriving in the UK.

House Martin SBs, amber: A pair attempted to breed in 2001. Despite the provision of artificial nests at the Visitor Centre a pair built a nest under the eaves of the Tower Hide. The nest unfortunately fell to the ground. Birds are seen all summer and presumably include birds breeding in Barnes - they can be seen collecting mud for their nests. Sadly this local population has declined almost to the point of extinction. This is in keeping in with a national decline and a shift in the breeding range towards the north and west of the UK.

Grey Wagtail Y, amber: Recorded almost all year round, including juveniles presumably locally bred.

Pied Wagtail YBs: Since 2001 one or two pairs have bred. A pair regularly breeds at the Visitor Centre occasionally using unusual sites such as a hanging basket and behind the

courtyard clock. In addition a pair or two of locally breeding birds have brought their fledged young to the Reserve in summer.

Wren YBr: As expected, this ubiquitous species, already resident in the area surrounding the Reserve, took advantage of the extensive planting of shrubs and trees. After an initial peak in 2003 numbers fell to be sustained at a lower level and were probably suppressed by a succession of cold winters. Along with several other common passerine species at the Reserve, the dramatic increase in recorded territories in 2013 suggest that recent surveys had under-estimated its population. Numbers of territories for each year are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
nc	nc	21	36	nc	nc	20	18	25	24	nc	nc	23	44

Dunnock YBr, amber: As with Wren there was an early peak in population, but this was followed by a gradual decline. In 2013 numbers increased to approach those of the initial peak but previous under-recording may have also been an issue. Unlike the previous species Dunnock remains restricted to the perimeter of the site with just one new territory within the Reserve. It seems to prefer areas containing mature bramble bushes which mainly exist on the outskirts of the Reserve. Numbers of territories for each year are as follows:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
5	7	13	19	14	13	10	9	7	7	8	6	6	14

Robin YBr: The pattern of its occupation at the Reserve is almost identical to that of the Wren although numbers were at a lower level until 2013, when a similar peak was reached. The sharp rise in 2013 must also be due to recent under-estimation of numbers. The highest densities of territories are in Wildside, the wildfowl collection, by the entrance and in the south-east corner of the Reserve. Numbers of territories are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
nc	nc	17	21	16	11	13	12	15	14	13	15	15	46

Blackbird YBr: Numbers have gradually swelled but the apparent doubling of the population in 2013 suggests that that the full extent of occupation by this species was previously under-estimated. Every part of the Reserve containing trees and bushes is now inhabited by Blackbirds. Numbers of territories are as follows:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
nc	nc	16	23	19	22	28	31	33	19	27	32	25	54

Song Thrush YBr, red: As with the previous few species a peak in numbers occurred in 2003. Unlike most of them, however, it has remained confined to the perimeter of the site. Numbers fell to fluctuate at a lower level but rose again in 2013. The long-term national decline and a recent one in the London Area lend more importance to the small population at the Reserve. Numbers of territories for each year are given:



Cetti's Warbler singing. (Jan Wilczur)

Song Thrush

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
4	5	5	10	6	5	7	5	6	6	5	4	6	8

Mistle Thrush Y, amber: A couple of pairs breed beside the Reserve along Queen Elizabeth Walk and in the Castelnaud gardens. They are regularly seen at the Reserve, along with their fledged young, especially on the grassland areas beside the entrance.

Cetti's Warbler YBr, schedule one, RBBP: The first two records for this anticipated colonist, a reed and scrub specialist, were as far back as late 2002 and were thought to be of females, as no song was heard. One was proved to be so when it was trapped and ringed the following January. For the next seven years birds were mainly recorded in winter so it was with some degree of relief that finally, in 2010, two males established territories. The following year breeding was confirmed and the population has since expanded to fill the site with all suitable habitat occupied. Despite the recent cold winters numbers have been maintained - previous attempts at colonising the UK from the Continent had been thwarted by prolonged cold spells. The number of territories in each year is as follows:

2010 - 2	2011 - 5	2012 - 8	2013 - 8
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Maturing scrub and the few bramble brakes allowed to persist have furnished this species with appropriate habitat, but has this been at the expense of Sedge Warbler and Reed Bunting? These other two songbirds of wetlands have declined after initial colonisation. Scrutiny of the breeding distributions of all three species at the Reserve show some overlap but it should still be possible for all three to co-exist in satisfactory numbers.

Sedge Warbler SBr: This characteristic wetland passerine quickly established a significant breeding population, taking advantage of the open nature of the site. A sharp decline was noted in 2006 and, despite signs of a recovery, numbers crashed again in 2012, probably because of the cool wet spring. This species now only maintains a toe-hold as a breeding bird at the Reserve. Numbers of territories for each year are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
9	14	17	14	17	17	6	5	7	12	12	8	1	1

As the extensive planting matured the suitability for this species has diminished. The presence of mature trees in and around the reedbed, for instance, may deter nesting. Being a sub-Saharan migrant may give rise to other factors which effect numbers returning in spring. A dozen singing males pausing on spring passage in 2013 may suggest the Reserve is still capable of holding territories in double figures, if the nature of the wetland habitat is altered to tempt this species to stay and breed.

Marsh Warbler RSBs, red, schedule one, RBBP: A pair bred successfully in 2001. This was an exceptionally rare event for an urban wetland and a major coup for the Reserve. A singing male appearing in late May was assumed to be a rare migrant and was enjoyed as such. It sang for four days, despite strimming work taking place metres from where it was singing, and then presumably departed. Marsh Warblers are notoriously secretive when breeding but the discovery of first an adult carrying food and then two adults feeding fledged young, was still an astonishing surprise. They did not reappear the following year and the area they nested in, on the east bank of the Reserve, was planted with shrubs and is now a mature hedge. Any repeat of the event, as unlikely as it may have been, would now be impossible. This rather exemplifies the transformation of much of the areas surrounding the main part of the Reserve from grassland and low scrub to mature hedgerow and woodland.

Reed Warbler SBr: The extensive reedbeds of the Reserve were soon filled with the monotonous song of this specialised species. Numbers peaked in 2004 to a level unmatched elsewhere in the London Area. But as with several other species they declined to a lower, yet apparently stable level. The halving of numbers in 2012 is likely to have been caused by the poor weather that spring. Fortunately numbers approached the norm the following year. Despite the reduced population compared to 2004 the Reserve maintains its position as one of the capital's main breeding sites. Numbers of territories for each year are as follows:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
46	73	90	104	121	108	93	105	87	80	86	65	34	71

The layout of the reedbeds and the narrow reedy margins of the larger water-bodies facilitate surveying and allow for accurate estimates of the breeding population. The maturing of trees planted in and beside the main reedbed and the invasion of other smaller areas of reeds by scrub may have contributed to the decline. Comparing distribution maps of territories in 2002 and 2013 it is also noticeable that numbers have fallen beside the Reservoir and Sheltered Lagoons, these now being bordered by mature scrub and trees.

Blackcap SBr: Increased its numbers until reaching a peak in 2006. A decline followed to a lower level that was maintained until 2013 when there was a dramatic rise in numbers with half of the territories on the outskirts of the Reserve. This surely cannot be entirely explained by previous under-recording. It breeds commonly in south-west London including nearby at Barnes Common. Numbers of territories are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
5	7	7	7	9	10	13	7	6	6	7	6	8	24

Garden Warbler SBr: A single singing male was present in a couple of early years and breeding did not take place until 2007. Since then only occasional single pairs or males have been present. Unlike Blackcap it is generally found in the outer suburbs of London, only breeding as close as Wimbledon Common, four kilometres to the south. So, even though the combination of scrub and woodland at the Reserve would seem to suit this species it is unlikely to increase in numbers, especially as Blackcap has already become established. Numbers of territories are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
0	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1

Lesser Whitethroat SBs: Appeared for the first time as a breeding species in 2004 and since then one or two singing males or pairs have been present most years. The blocks of dense scrub and large areas of bramble at the edge of the Reserve provide optimal habitat. While breeding it can be extremely elusive and as was the case in 2013, it can seemingly disappear until adults are seen to be feeding recently fledged young. This is a scarce breeding bird in south-west London so the Reserve is important in a local context. Numbers of territories are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	0	1

Common Whitethroat SBr, amber: Quickly colonised the Reserve finding the established bramble brakes and newly planted areas around the periphery ideal habitat to nest in. With the maturation of these blocks of scrub and trees, numbers declined and it then disappeared as a breeding bird. With a sub-Saharan migrant at a low population level this is perhaps likely to happen. It has returned to the Reserve as a breeding bird but numbers are erratic and at a lower level than before. Numbers of territories for each year are as follows:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
4	5	5	2	5	4	2	1	0	2	0	3	1	2

The management plan for the Reserve aimed to attract several breeding pairs of this scrub species, and this was soon achieved. Recent nesting locations have extensive areas of bramble, an apparent requirement for this species. These are notably scarce on the Reserve, seemingly confined to its boundaries. If it is to return to the numbers originally aimed for, some of the scrub, which undergoes regular coppicing and pruning,

will have to be suppressed completely to restore the more open habitat this bird requires, and bramble should be allowed to flourish. Unlike the previous species it is a common breeder at Richmond Park and Wimbledon Common, with a few pairs nearby at Barnes Common.

Common Chiffchaff YBr: Breeding was first confirmed in 2009. With the maturing of trees planted during the development of the Reserve, Chiffchaff has settled as a breeding species with two regular territories in the wooded north-west and south-east corners of the site. Numbers of territories for each year are given:

2009 - 1	2010 - 1	2011 - 2	2012 - 2	2013 - 2
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Willow Warbler P, amber: Single singing males held territory in 2000 and 2013. On one occasion in the latter year a second bird was seen nearby so perhaps a pair was present. There was, however, no evidence of breeding. The presence of at least a territorial male was a surprise considering the disappearance of this once common species from local areas, in line with its decline in southern England. Interestingly a pair bred locally at Richmond Park in 2013.

Goldcrest YBr: In the early years there was a regular territory along Queen Elizabeth Walk - alongside the southern boundary. Additional territories appeared in the Castelnau gardens and by 2013 breeding was taking place on the Reserve - in the conifers of the wildfowl collection. Numbers have declined since 2010 perhaps due in part to the recent run of unusually cold winters. Numbers of territories for each year are as follows:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
1	1	1	1	2	3	1	3	4	3	5	3	2	2

Long-tailed Tit YBr: Another incoming species from surrounding areas with numbers apparently stable despite harsh weather in recent years. The dramatic rise in 2013 suggests that it had been under-recorded, especially as the winter had been harsh and the spring one of the coldest on record. Numbers of territories are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
nc	nc	1	2	5	5	4	4	4	4	6	4	5	16

Blue Tit YBr: Has maintained a stable population since it was first surveyed in 2002. However, the pattern of distribution has changed, with birds moving from the western and southern perimeters into adjacent parts of the Reserve. The provision of nest boxes was probably a factor in this shift. Numbers of territories are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
nc	nc	14	14	nc	nc	14	17	16	15	nc	nc	16	21

Great Tit YBr: A rather more fluctuating population compared with Blue Tit. A dramatic increase in 2013, with the wooded areas of the north-west and south-east corners of the

Reserve occupied, suggests it may have been previously under-recorded. As with Blue Tit, it utilises artificial sites in which to nest. Numbers of territories are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
nc	nc	10	12	nc	nc	14	17	16	14	nc	nc	13	33

Coal Tit YBr: One or two pairs have bred since 2002, when it was first recorded. Much like Goldcrest - the other conifer-dependent species - territories are established along the southern and western boundaries.

Jay YBr: In 2002 and 2003 there were no territories recorded; by 2013 there were seven. It had always been present around the Reserve but has clearly taken advantage of the developing scrub and woodland habitats.

Magpie YBr: In 2002 and 2003 there were three and four territories respectively. When next surveyed in 2013 there were eight. Given the increase in most songbirds at the Reserve this species, along with Jay, appears not to have significantly affected their populations.

Jackdaw YBr: In the early years it was occasionally seen flying over. It then began making regular appearances in 2006. One or two pairs were breeding in the wood at Barn Elms playing fields by 2009. They now frequent the grassland by the entrance and the Visitor Centre, where they scavenge at the café. It breeds in abundance at Richmond Park and is a regular visitor to, if not a breeder in, residential areas three kilometres to the south.

Carrion Crow YBr: Only surveyed in 2003, when four pairs were present around the Reserve and in 2013 when there were at least five pairs. They are one of the most important species because of their impact on other breeding birds, most notably the waders, for which they are a significant factor in their poor breeding productivity. As well as the presence of a large number of non-breeding birds disrupting nesting activity, the attentions of the locally breeding pairs prove detrimental. They systematically search the islands for the eggs and young of nesting waders. It was soon realised by BENHG that Crows were causing problems and some form of control was lobbied for. The non-breeding flock, which could be counted in hundreds, was dissuaded from visiting the Reserve. But the local breeding birds were still a problem which has never been solved satisfactorily. They are an issue which needs to be addressed, especially before the breeding season is underway, if breeding waders are ever able to be considered successful at the Reserve.

Crows also highlight the problems of a small wildlife reserve in an urban setting. The abundance of potential prey, concentrated in a small area, acts as a magnet attracting local predators and scavengers. Some species are perhaps breeding at a high density and so are particularly vulnerable to predatory pressure. The potentially controversial and emotive problem of controlling species in order to conserve those that are endangered needs to be addressed. The wider public are probably unaware of this issue and should be informed of the consequences of allowing predators such as Crows free reign at a wildlife reserve. A great deal of money is spent creating and restoring wildlife-rich

habitats but it can only be considered well spent if the wildlife, especially that which is considered to be under threat, is fully protected and allowed to flourish.

Starling YBr, red: A colony has developed at the Visitor Centre nesting in special cavities created during its construction, despite the steep decline in the London Area. A factor in the decline may then be the lack of nesting sites. A number of birds probably breed in houses along Castelnaud but these have never been surveyed. Numbers of breeding pairs are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
nc	3	2	3	4	6	8	7	7	8	7	7	8	8

House Sparrow RBx, red: In contrast to the severe decline across London of this once abundant species a small colony developed, first at houses along Castelnaud, then at the Visitor Centre using the wall cavities for nesting. Advantage was taken of the food for the captive wildfowl. Sadly the colony flourished for only a few years then quickly declined and disappeared altogether. The presence of breeding Starlings did not appear to be a negative influence. Presumably factors elsewhere that caused the national decline eventually took effect. A few birds from the small colony across the River in Fulham regularly visited the Tower Hide in summer to feed, though their visits are now rare. Numbers of territories for each year were as follows:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
0	0	1	3	4	4	6	7	8	3	1	0	0	0

Chaffinch YBr: In common with a number of other passerines, it moved in from the surrounding area and established a stable population, although confined to the perimeter of the site. There was a sharp decline after the peak of 2006 but numbers seem to have stabilised. This species has increased in the London Area. Numbers of territories are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
nc	7	15	15	nc	16	16	9	11	11	12	9	10	9

Greenfinch YBr: The pattern of colonisation was similar to the previous species. It peaked in 2003 but there was then an unaccountable decline. Numbers have since recovered to that early peak, with a notable occupation of the north-east corner of the Reserve. Greenfinch has also increased in the London Area. Numbers of territories are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
nc	5	7	15	nc	7	7	10	13	9	13	10	10	15

Goldfinch YBr: Another species confined to the fringes of the Reserve when nesting. Numbers have fluctuated, peaking in 2003 and 2009. The recent decline may just be another dip in the population cycle. Numbers of territories are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
3	2	5	6	2	3	2	3	3	6	4	5	2	2

Linnet P, red: Until 2005 one or two pairs bred nearby, probably at the allotments. A singing male was heard in June 2006. In July 2009 three juveniles were seen but their origin was unknown. In summer, family parties would feed on the remaining small patches of ruderal which was once extensive during the Reserve's development. This habitat has almost disappeared and sadly this once common species is nowadays only seen flying over on passage. It does still, however, maintain a small breeding population four kilometres to the north at Wormwood Scrubs.

Reed Bunting YBr, amber: Like most of the other wetland Passerines rapid colonisation was followed by a few years of consolidation, then a decline. This was most notable in 2008 when numbers halved; why this was is unclear. At its peak, the population at the Reserve made it an important breeding site in the London Area. Numbers of territories are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
11	15	21	17	16	20	24	17	8	10	9	6	4	5

As with Sedge Warbler, it appears the open nature of the habitats in the early years proved ideal, but as the extensive planting matured their suitability diminished. The north-west part of the Reserve and the reedbed now contain mature trees and are almost devoid of these two species. Consideration will have to be given to the nature of these habitats and how they are maintained so that these two species, so characteristic of wetlands, thrive once again at the London Wetland Centre.

Reed Bunting male singing. (Jan Wilczur)



Appendix

Other species that have either occurred or appear regularly at the Reserve in the breeding season, or may breed at some point in the future:

Red-crested Pochard Sc, introduced: A pair was seen mating in March 2003 but were only present one day.

Mandarin Duck Sc, introduced: A few males have recently visited captive birds in the wildfowl collection.

Black-necked Grebe O, amber, schedule one, RBBP: Pairs have appeared on a few occasions in spring.

Cormorant Y: Aside from a few small colonies the main breeding area in London is at Walthamstow.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Y, amber: A few birds patrol the site on the lookout for young water-birds.

Herring Gull Y, red: The Reserve is used as a high-tide roost. No predatory behaviour has been observed.

Great Black-backed Gull Y, amber: As above but has bred as close as the River at Wandsworth in 2008, which was the first breeding record for the London Area. A pair was seen mating in May 2002 and another pair spent a day nest-building on a shingle island on the Lake, but the date was not recorded.

Cuckoo P: Records from mid-summer in 2001 and 2006-08, including one of a juvenile, indicated that breeding may have taken place unnoticed. This species is highly mobile and elusive when breeding.

Grasshopper Warbler P, red: A few singing birds linger in spring and summer but breeding is probably unlikely.

Avocet pair: Scrape display. (Jan Wilczur)



Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following:

Rupert Kaye, fellow birder, friend and neighbour with whom I have spent many hours at the Reserve watching birds and at home talking about them. With him I co-wrote and co-edited the LWC Bird and Natural History Reports. His own special enthusiasm has been for migrating birds - spending countless hours sky-watching and recording visible migration over the Reserve.

BENHG members, past and present, for sharing their passion for the Reserve and contributing to its ornithology, especially Martin Honey and Bernie Whiskin - along with the author, the only members of the original Group still active; also Nick Senior for his contribution to breeding bird surveys from 2004 to 2011; Dan Monk was a schoolboy when he first visited the Reserve but soon became a valued member of first BENHG then the LWC staff - his humour and enthusiasm are still missed; Angus Innes recently revived the Group and stepped up to the role of chairperson.

Dr Richard Bullock, Biodiversity Officer at LWC, has been closely associated with BENHG since 1995 - from even before the Reserve opened. Recognising the value of the Group he has been unwavering in his co-operation and encouragement. As well as co-editing and co-writing the LWC Bird and Natural History Reports, he has assisted in breeding bird surveys, quite apart from all his other duties with WWT; Dr Jan Hewlett, the original monitoring scientist for WWT, was a supporter of BENHG in its early years; Kevin Peberdy, Project Manager for the Reserve during its creation, assisted BENHG in gaining access during the redevelopment of the site and acknowledged the value of its monitoring work.

LWC managers, past and present - Stephanie Fudge, John Arbon and Richard Myers - kindly gave permission for special access to the Reserve without which much of the breeding bird surveys could not be carried out; various LWC staff members have contributed bird records.

Finally I would like to apologise to my family for my numerous absences from home, although they may have been grateful for those.

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Jan Wilczur, 74 Huntingfield Road, London, SW15 5EU

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS AT WELL-WATCHED SITES

Full-length versions of highlights are no longer posted on the LNHS website. You may find more detailed records on the websites listed under the site details.

Alexandra Park

Alexandra Park is a Local Nature Reserve with mixed parkland of 80ha (196ac)

Location LB Haringey; Vice-County Middx; Grid ref TQ302900; Postcode N22 7AY

Information <http://friendsofalexandrapark.org>

The above website includes links to an annotated map and to bird reports

This was an exceptional year with an equal record-high of 118 species (up ten on last year). There were also three new species for the site, taking the total to 177 species. The first of these was a Great Egret viewed by staff from the *Birdwatch* office flying ESE towards the Lea Valley in early March. Slavonian Grebe was found by your author on a day trip from Walthamstow to Wood Green Reservoir in mid-April, swiftly followed by an Arctic Tern - contributed by the *Birdwatch* editor!

The early winter was notable for a Woodlark north with 23 Skylarks in late January, following a Hawfinch seen flying into park airspace a week earlier. This month also produced the site's only definitive Mealy Redpoll in the cricket scrub, though a probable occurred near the boating lake in December. Three Waxwing records kicked off with a flock of 20 in late February.

The spring was fairly unremarkable apart from a major influx of migrants on the 14th and 15th of April: the former date producing the only Ring Ouzel and Redstart of the year; the latter a remarkable minimum of 12 Wheatear and 24 Willow Warbler. April also accounted for a singing Wood Warbler below the pitch-and-putt course. May highlighted with a three-day Black Redstart at the filter beds followed by the less-than-annual Turtle Dove.

*Wood Green Reservoir from the platform just south of
the Conservation Pond. (Dawn Painter)*



Birds of prey were well-represented, with a Honey Buzzard mid-May being the pick of the bunch. Hobby impressed with ten records, Red Kite with six and Common Buzzard with seven. Peregrine Falcon was well represented in the first half of the year.

Waders excelled with ten species, including singles of Golden Plover, Curlew, Dunlin, Oystercatcher and Green Sandpiper, and two Redshanks.

Wildfowl included unusual site-records for Wigeon and Mandarin in March, and three Red-crested Pochards in April being the first record this century.

The autumn included the second Wryneck in three years at the end of August, a second Wood Warbler in early September, but just one Tree Pipit. Whinchat put on a decent show with seven records, whilst a maximum of three Spotted Flycatchers showed on six dates between mid-August and mid-September. Crossbill put in a brief appearance, flying over the cricket scrub in late August. Late October produced another migrant Hawfinch.

The more notable breeding records included four broods of Pochard. However, Willow Warbler took the top prize with an adult seen feeding three juveniles in early June in top field and neighbouring gardens. Nuthatch had two or three territories and Song Thrush at least four. Tawny Owls' prominence at night was probably indicative of at least two pairs. Both Little and Great Crested Grebes produced at least one brood each of three reared young. Ring-necked Parakeet again threatened to breed, but fortune prevailed.

BOB WATTS, 18 Nightingale Lane, London, Hornsey, London N8 7QU

Brent Reservoir

Brent Reservoir (Welsh Harp) is a Local Nature Reserve and SSSI

Location Neasden; Vice-County Middx; Grid ref TQ215870

Information http://londonbirders.wikia.com/wiki/Brent_Reservoir

Annotated map www.aardvarkmap.net/maps/MP1YP4X5

Site records (free downloadable annual report) www.brentres.com/report.htm

During the year a total of 135 species was recorded, around average for recent years. The rarest birds of the first winter period were the over-wintering male Bearded Tit which remained until Feb 9th and a Marsh Harrier that flew over on Jan 27th, the reservoir's first winter record. During a spell of cold weather 65 Golden Plover flew South on Jan 19th while Turnstone, Knot and Dunlin were seen during snow showers the following day. A female Goosander arrived on Feb 24th and stayed into March.

Unusual spring migrants included Slavonian Grebe on Mar 4th and Avocet on Mar 21st while more typical summer visitors began arriving from Mar 24th when Little Ringed Plover and Chiffchaff were seen. Three of the year's five Red Kites flew over in spring, along with 17 Common Buzzards. The year's only Kittiwake was on Apr 6th while a Whimbrel flew over on Apr 13th. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was present on Apr 13th and 20th. The weekend of Apr 20th/21st produced Great Egret and Hoopoe, both seen flying past the main hide. The Spring Bird Count on Apr 28th amassed a total of 73 species including Grasshopper Warbler. May was fairly quiet with just a flock of eight Arctic Terns on 4th being the highlight. Late passage birds included Nightingale and Common Redstart in early June.

The cold spring affected the Common Tern colony and they failed to breed for the first time since it was established in 1983. Lapwing and Little Ringed Plover both over-summered but failed to breed.

As is now typical, the first autumn migrant was Green Sandpiper in late June. Wader passage got going properly in July when single Greenshank, Oystercatcher and Snipe were all seen and Common Sandpiper peaked at 11 on July 24th. A Wood Warbler on Aug 3rd was only the second record since 1961. On Aug 25th a flock of 20 Ruff and a Turtle Dove flew over. Garganey began to arrive on 26th, eventually building up to five on Sep 18th. The Autumn Bird Count on Aug 31st recorded 70 species, including one of just two Spotted Flycatchers seen this year. September began with a long-staying Ruff and ended with another Great Egret. Visible migration watches produced Hawfinch on Oct 8th, Ring Ouzel on Oct 14th, five Brambling and a massive total from Oct 24th to Nov 27th of 53,414 Woodpigeons.

A record count of nine Little Egrets flew over on Nov 10th. A Jack Snipe was seen intermittently up to the end of the year and a flock of 60 Golden Plover flew over on Dec 15th.

ANDREW SELF, 16 Harp Island Close, London, NW10 0DF

Beddington Farmlands

Beddington Farmlands is a nature reserve with 160ha (400ac) of mixed habitat

Location LB Sutton (and Merton); Vice-County Surrey; Grid ref TQ290662; Postcode SM6 7BJ

Information <http://beddingtonfarmlands.org.uk>

The above site includes links to sightings and past records

The postcode is for Hackbridge railway station which is the meeting point for guided walks. The birding side of the farm is behind the station and can be accessed from Mile Road: turn right out of the station and head towards the shops; Mile Road is a small parking area/road between the tile shop and a large house. Then walk through the kissing gate and over the railway bridge to the gates at the end of this path.

In a year of highs and lows, 152 species were recorded. Highlights included two Red-rumped Swallows (third and fourth records), two Bitterns, a Wood Warbler and two Common Cranes.

First winter: Glaucous, Iceland, Caspian, and Mediterranean Gulls and Kittiwake were recorded in January and February amongst the 15,000+ large gulls and 7,000+ Black-headed Gulls. A cold weather spell from Jan 18th produced some interesting visible migration, with up to 70 Golden Plover, 300 Lapwing, 500 Fieldfare, 100 Skylark and scarcities such as Short-eared Owl, Grey Plover, Red Kite and up to four Jack Snipe. Low point of the first winter period was the removal of the elder copse under the instruction of English Heritage (to protect an archaeological site). In the process, four Long-eared Owls and three Woodcock were displaced.

Spring: Highlights included two Red-rumped Swallows (one on May 12th and another on the 25th), a singing male Wood Warbler from Apr 24th to 25th, a reeling Grasshopper Warbler on Apr 20th, and 17 Waxwing on Apr 17th. A Spotted Redshank on Mar 29th was the first since 2007. Spring migrants were delayed due to weather; when conditions finally lifted, the resulting rush produced up to 35 Wheatear on Apr 15th. Two Ring

Ouzels, up to 15 Willow Warbler, several Whimbrels, a single Little Gull, up to four Greenshank and 14 Ringed Plover were other notable records through the spring.

Summer: On the Big Day (May 4th), 68 species were recorded. Shelducks bred (but unfortunately lost all the ten young) and Mute Swans raised 15 young (a record year). It was a good breeding season for warblers, with up to 35 Whitethroat, ten Reed Warbler, five Sedge Warbler, five Lesser Whitethroat and two Garden Warbler. Unfortunately it was a disastrous year for the Tree Sparrows, with a major population crash from nearly 1,000 birds in late summer 2007 to only a few pairs breeding this year.

Autumn: Two Common Cranes on Sep 19th were the autumn highlight, but another local rarity was a Grasshopper Warbler on Sep 22nd. Scarcities included Black-tailed Godwits, Wood Sandpiper, Grey Plover, Garganeys, Marsh Harrier and Little Gull. Two Cuckoos were present in July and August. By late autumn, wildfowl numbers started to build up, with 100 Shoveler, 300 Teal, 13 Wigeon and 30 Gadwall by late October.

Second winter: Caspian Gulls were reported again in November and December, up to five Jack Snipe were present on the mound following the serious flooding, and 119 Gadwall in December was a new site record.

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www.peteralfreynature.co.uk

Editorial note: There were also reports of Gannet, Great Egret, Goshawk and Lapland Bunting but these have not to date been accepted by the Rarities Committee. See Appendix III for details.

Blackheath and Greenwich Park

Blackheath is open grassland with some scrub/trees. Greenwich Park is mixed parkland of 80ha (196ac)

Location LB Lewisham (Blackheath) & Greenwich; Vice-County Kent

Blackheath Grid ref TQ390766; Postcode SE3 0TE or SE3 7JH

Greenwich Park Grid ref TQ390775; Postcode SE10 8QT

Information and interactive map www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/greenwich-park

Site records (Blog) www.greenwichwildlife.blogspot.co.uk/

Blackheath: Waxwings visited the Standard for about a week after New Year, increasing from three to nine. A few Lapwings went overhead with one briefly on the frozen Heath. Twelve Waxwings in the Village (12th Jan) were down to nine by mid-month when they departed. A Snow Bunting headed west over a lucky observer's garden on Jan 22nd.

Two Dark-bellied Brent Geese went west (Mar 9th). Peregrines, Red Kites and Buzzards were seen overhead occasionally, plus a Hobby in June. Two Whinchats were seen in late April. Some 14 Wheatears passed through in April, with two peak counts of five.

Two Song Thrush pairs, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Whitethroat bred again at the 'Dips'. Whitethroats nested at Whitefield Mount and Chiffchaffs near Hyde Vale. Coots, Moorhens and Mallards bred near the Village. House Sparrows visited the Dips and Whitefield Mount to collect food for their young. Thirty Swifts were over the Heath in midsummer.

A Common Sandpiper was heard on Aug 6th, migrating at night over Vanbrugh Park. A Spotted Flycatcher was at the Village (Aug 8th) and Yellow Wagtail (Sep 5th) and

Common Tern (Sep 20th) flew over. In November, 30 Mallards were on the tiny Whitefield pond!

Greenwich Park: Fieldfares and Siskins overwintered - fairly unusual here. Teal continued to visit into April (peaking at five in early January) but only twice in autumn - perhaps due to disturbance from landscaping work. Freezing weather brought a female Shoveler to the icy lake (Jan 23rd; only the second since 1966) and, next day, a drake Gadwall (likely the first Park record).

On Apr 12th a male Ring Ouzel arrived. The Park shared in mid-April's Redstart influx - a total of perhaps five birds, plus a sprinkling of Willow Warblers and one Firecrest. A Cuckoo and another male Ring Ouzel (Apr 25th) didn't hang around. A singing Sedge Warbler (Apr 23rd) was apparently the first since 1966. A Reed Warbler skulked on May 8th - this species is about annual.

Egyptian Geese bred for the first time, but lost all their young. Mallards and Moorhens had good breeding success. Pied Wagtails with newly-fledged young were seen in June. Breeding territory counts included: Great Spotted Woodpecker (3), Green Woodpecker (2), Song Thrush (3), Blackcap (7-8), Chiffchaff (2-3), Coal Tit (3), Goldcrest (4) and Nuthatch (4). Whitethroats bred successfully - perhaps the first recorded breeding here for 100 years!

A Treecreeper (July) was the first for several years and a Crossbill flew over. Strangest by far was a female Long-tailed Duck (Jun 7th). Seen earlier in Peckham, by the next day it had moved to Rotherhithe! If a truly wild bird it would be the first Park record.

Autumn was subdued, but October produced two Bramblings and a Crossbill over and a brief Firecrest. An impressive 4,000 Woodpigeons moved over (30th). A Snipe headed south (Oct 8th). Five Egyptian Geese in November was a site record and 60 Jackdaws commuted to roost in Westcombe Woodlands.

JOE BEALE, joetheillustrator@gmail.com
www.greenwichwildlife.blogspot.co.uk

Canons Farm and Banstead Woods

Canons Farm and Banstead Woods together form a large area of mixed, dynamic habitat

Location Banstead; Vice-County Surrey; Grid ref TQ248577; Postcode KT20 6DD or CR5 3NR

Information and access details <http://cfwbwbirds.blogspot.co.uk>

The above site includes links to a map and to year lists

The most surprising find of the year was a Hawfinch in June in Banstead Woods. A Kittiwake in May was a first for the farm and a Whimbrel feeding on worms in a field for two days was a unusual sight. Canons Farm is best known for migrants and 2013 was no exception, with a Marsh Harrier, two Hen Harriers, a Honey Buzzard, Ring Ouzel on three dates, Whinchat on 17 dates and Common Redstart on nine dates. A Pied Flycatcher, several Yellow Wagtail, three Tree Pipits, two Woodlark, two Grasshopper Warblers and single Reed and Sedge Warblers also passed through, but only one Cuckoo. There was a peak of 16 Wheatear, and Brambling occurred on nine dates with up to seven birds.

Yellowhammers still breed and 22 birds were present in January. Bullfinch also breed, with a flock of 12 birds seen in December. Up to eight Little Owls were present and also

bred, and a single Barn Owl was present. A good selection of waders was seen, including a Green Sandpiper and Dunlin. Woodcock winter in the Woods, and five were flushed on one date.

PAUL GOODMAN, 43 Colcokes Road, Banstead, Surrey, SM7 2EJ

Crossness

Crossness is a Local Nature Reserve of 25.5ha (63 ac) on the Thames Estuary

Location LB Bexley; Vice-County Kent; Grid ref TQ478815; Postcode DA17 6FB

Information www.lnr.naturalengland.org.uk

Annotated map <http://natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk>

Observer coverage declined still further, and the number of species recorded dropped to 133, compared with 143 (not 123 as I erroneously reported in the LBR) in 2012. Nevertheless, there were some excellent records, including, astonishingly, another Bonaparte's Gull and the site's second Green-winged Teal.

The first winter period was rather quiet, perhaps due to the lack of hard weather. Highlights included a Pintail, a Kittiwake, the second Mandarin in three years (only one record before these), single Ruff and Bar-tailed Godwit, three Avocets and three Grey Plovers.

The start of spring (or perhaps it was still late winter, with the prevailing cold conditions) saw a flock of 59 Brent Geese head downriver and another Avocet. When spring finally arrived, the undoubted highlight was a drake Green-winged Teal, which drew observers from all over London and beyond. Other good birds included a Little Gull, up to two Grey Plovers, a Black Redstart, another five Kittiwakes, two Sanderlings, a Continental Black-tailed Godwit (nominate *limosa*), four Little Gulls, 13 Arctic Terns, two Common Redstarts, a Ring Ouzel, a Grasshopper Warbler, a Rook (very unusually on the ground - most records are flyovers) and a Red Kite.

Cetti's Warbler continued to consolidate its status as a regular breeder, with about ten territories, but the Barn Owls failed to breed successfully, despite laying two eggs. Summer was, however, brightened by an unseasonal but totally stunning Bonaparte's Gull in full summer plumage. Following last year's two (of which this could perhaps be one returning), Crossness may, if BBRC reject an earlier record which is under review, have hosted all three London records of this species (though the monopoly would be broken in 2014).

The birds of the autumn were a Fulmar, a Sabine's Gull, and a flock of seven Curlew Sandpipers followed by another single. Other highlights included a Guillemot (giving the author a very belated London tick!), five Turnstones, five Ruff, two Greenshanks, a Knot, two Bar-tailed Godwits, an Arctic Skua, a Brent Goose and a Little Gull. Scarce terns included single Sandwich, up to 20 Arctic and ten Black - a far better showing than last year despite the power station outfall again failing to attract birds.

The year closed with an adult Caspian Gull, a Grey Plover and a wintering Greenshank, the last being very unusual here, where Greenshanks rarely stay for more than a couple of days. A Barnacle Goose would be a first site record, but was presumably an escape.

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Staines Moor

Staines Moor is a 91ha (225ac) alluvial meadow and SSSI in the lower Colne Valley

Location Spelthorne, Surrey; Vice-County Middx; Grid ref TQ032730; Postcode TW19 6EB

Information <http://spelthorne.gov.uk/article/2254/Staines-Moor>

Staines Moor comprises neutral grassland, marshy grassland, swamp, rivers, scrub, reedbeds, ponds and some woodland. 191 bird species have been recorded up to the end of 2013.

Wintering Short-eared Owls from 2012 continued their stay until Feb 20th, with counts of six on Jan 6th, 7th and 8th, and a Barn Owl was seen on and off until Apr 25th. The raptor highlight was a ringtail Hen Harrier present late afternoon on Jan 25th and all day Jan 26th, hunting over the moor and on adjacent Stanwell Moor.

During this period Goosander regularly visited the Colne, with four drakes on Feb 11th. Two Treecreepers were recorded on Jan 11th, a Cetti's Warbler along the Colne on 25th, and several Jack Snipe. Cold weather in January produced a notable count of 1,192 Fieldfare south on Jan 22nd and a Curlew east on the same day, a Dunlin on Jan 18th and a Water Rail on Jan 18th (with another on Feb 23rd). Water Pipits reached a peak of seven on Feb 16th.

Spring passage waders included Little Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Whimbrel, Curlew, Greenshank, and a late Jack Snipe on Apr 20th. Migrant passerines included a Tree Pipit on Apr 24th, ten Yellow Wagtails on Apr 15th, three Redstarts, a peak count of six Whinchat on Apr 27th and 28th, Grasshopper Warbler on the Apr 15th and Apr 20th, and a new site record of 43 Wheatear on Apr 26th.

Despite being observed performing display flights, no Redshank or Lapwing attempted to nest this year. However, Cuckoo fared a little better with four together on Apr 20th and a juvenile seen on Jun 29th. Up to eight Little Egret on Jun 11th, including three juveniles, is also notable as a new site-record.

Autumn passage produced the site's third Great Egret that flew off west from the Colne on Nov 10th, and a flock of seven Whooper Swan east over also on Nov 10th - the first record since 1956! A Marsh Harrier flew east over on Sep 28th, and a Hen Harrier was flushed from the ground and flew off low south on Oct 12th.

Other notables include a Firecrest on Oct 6th and 12th, a peak of seven Whinchat on Aug 31st, a Green Sandpiper on Aug 17th, double-figure counts of Yellow Wagtail in September and October, and several Greenshank. Stonechats reached a maximum of just five on Nov 8th.

The first Water Pipit of the winter appeared on Oct 29th, and nocturnal birding forays produced excellent views of Woodcock with at least two on Dec 19th, one on 20th and one on 30th.

LEE DINGAIN, 42 Cromwell Road, Worcester Park, Surrey, KT4 7JR

www.almostbirding.com

Editorial note: There were also reports of two Gannets but these have not to date been accepted by the Rarities Committee. See Appendix III for details.

Staines Reservoirs

Staines Reservoirs are 170ha (420ac) with N and S basins separated by a causeway

Location Spelthorne, Surrey; Vice-County Middx; Grid ref TQ051731; Postcode TW18 4HZ

Information http://londonbirders.wikia.com/wiki/Staines_Reservoir

The above site includes a link to a location map

Seven Whooper Swans, a notable local rarity, touched down on the afternoon of Nov 10th. Another goodie was a Long-tailed Duck, previously at Queen Mother Res, which appeared at Staines on Mar 31st and stayed until Apr 14th: our first this century!

Nine Brent Geese appeared in total, all in October. Duck numbers were unremarkable, with no more than 266 Wigeon (Feb 7th) and 339 Shoveler (Sep 28th), though a long-staying Pintail from September was unusual. Just one Garganey showed, briefly, on Jul 28th. It was another good year for Scaup, with probably 12 in all, including a midsummer drake and five birds on Dec 9th. About eight Common Scoter were recorded between March and October.

By contrast, sawbills had a thin time of it, with 12 reports of Smew (max nine, on Feb 14th), three of Goosander and none of Red-breasted Merganser. A lone drake Ruddy Duck lingered in January. Who knows when our next record will be?

Exceptionally, a Red-throated Diver was reported over a long period, with erratic sightings at Staines during February to April, then again on May 10th and Jun 10th. Then a summer-plumaged bird was seen on Oct 13th: conceivably a last visit from the same individual? On Mar 14th, single Black-throated and Great Northern Divers were also present, providing an enviable Staines diver hat-trick for several observers. The Great Northern stayed for most of February and March, with another briefly on Dec 24th.

Of the scarce grebes, five Slavonian appeared during the year and up to five Black-necked ever-present. It was a blank year for Red-necked.

A wide-ranging Gannet on Jul 28th was seen first from Staines Res, though it didn't settle there, unlike a juvenile on Oct 30th which spent much of the afternoon on the south basin.

Wader highlights were Jack Snipe (Jan 19th-23rd), Curlew Sandpiper (Sep 27th), and six Avocets (Apr 26th). A movement of Black-tailed Godwits on Apr 26th involved probably 54 birds, and a crack-of-dawn visit on Aug 5th paid off with a flock of 77+ Knot.

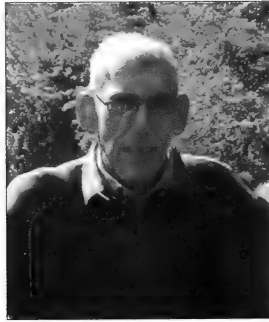
A downpour on Aug 24th brought a brief Great Skua to the S basin. Four Kittiwakes visited, all in spring, and Little Gulls peaked at 17 on Apr 25th. A Roseate was the tern star, on Jun 10th, when it shared the reservoir with a Red-throated Diver: not a double that seems likely to recur soon! Other tern totals were eight Little (all in spring) and some 13 Sandwich. Arctics peaked early at 40 on Apr 16th. Black Terns made a poor showing, with only about 25 all year. Common Terns probably fledged no young, again.

Other miscellaneous records were Short-eared Owl (Apr 7th), a massive estimated 4,000 House Martins on Sep 15th, six Rock Pipits, three Water Pipits, Rook (Apr 26th) and Raven (May 4th) - the last being our first record in modern times.

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OBITUARY: PETER NAYLOR (1950-2012)

ANDREW MOON



Pete was born on March 15th 1950 in south-east London and went to school at Sandwich in Kent. Although he originally intended to become a solicitor, having passed the first part of the Law Society with distinction, he chose not to follow this particular career path - probably because he decided that his main priorities in life were birdwatching and going to watch Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane! He worked for many years for Damont Audio in West Drayton until they went into receivership - part of the attraction being the location of his workplace, which proved very handy for Pete when something unusual turned up in the Staines area and he was able to leave work promptly to head down there.

Pete started birding seriously in the early 1970s and became a frequent visitor to both Perry Oaks sewage farm (now sadly buried beneath Heathrow's Terminal 5!) and Staines Reservoirs, as well as most west London reservoirs and the nearby gravel pits. He soon became well known within the London Natural History Society, going on frequent coach outings (where he was to meet many future friends) and in 1974 became the Middlesex bird recorder for the LNHS (when the great Phil Hollom was still a member of the records committee); this was a post he held until 1990 - a fantastic achievement and a tribute to his dedication. He was an ideal bird recorder, being utterly meticulous and a real stickler for detail and correctness; he also had excellent handwriting - a quality that was essential in those pre-computer days when compilers of the *London Bird Report* had to write species' accounts from hundreds of hand-written cards. More recently he single-handedly wrote two years of the *London Bird Report* - the 2003/2004 report that was published as one volume - which helped to get the publication back on track after some years of failed deadlines. Appropriately, he was one of the London Area's leading listers and one of only a handful to have seen 300 or more birds within the boundary - a real achievement for a non-coastal county.

He was a well known birder, not only in west London, where he was always happy to point out interesting local birds or to help with identifications, but also much more widely, when he started to expand his ornithological horizons. By 1975 he was starting

to travel more extensively around the country, with trips to Suffolk, Norfolk and the south coast all providing exciting experiences. The same year his quest to see rare birds saw him make his first visit to the Scilly Isles where he hit the jackpot seeing Black-and-White Warbler, Scarlet Tanager and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - a roll-call that would have most current birders salivating and was well worth arriving back at work a few days late! Not surprisingly the Scillies would become an annual destination for Pete for at least the next 20 years, sometimes with multiple visits in the same autumn! As a keen twitcher he came to accept long-distance trips to Shetland, Orkney, Outer Hebrides, Scilly Isles and Ireland as the only way to see the rarest birds. On one occasion we travelled up to South Uist in the Outer Hebrides to see the long-staying drake Steller's Eider - by the time we reached the site it was already past 22:00, but the long Scottish evenings allowed prolonged views even at this late hour.

Although Pete was more than happy to travel all round the country in pursuit of rare or unusual birds, he was always pleased to return to his local haunts - particularly the Colne Valley (when he lived in Uxbridge), anywhere between Uxbridge and Stocker's Lake, usually on foot, as he never learnt to drive. He became very adept at finding ways to get anywhere by public transport - despite that, an offer of a lift would always be gratefully accepted! He was a long-standing Wetland Bird Survey counter for King George VI Reservoir and he had a fantastic memory for statistics and could randomly remember noteworthy counts, or dates when rare birds had arrived, from many local sites.

Pete was widely travelled, and I was fortunate enough to accompany him on many long-distance foreign trips with the very first being to Morocco in 1977; subsequent trips included Kenya, Thailand, Israel, Ecuador, Namibia, Nepal, Bolivia, Australia, United States, Canada, Antarctica and the Falkland Islands to name just a few. He was rather careless and absent-minded at times (despite his meticulousness with bird records) and dropped various pairs of binoculars and several telescopes over the years; tripods frequently fell by the wayside and on one occasion he even lost his birdnews pager when it slipped out of his grasp and slid down the bank of a reservoir - never to be seen again - along with a thermos flask on another visit! Ken Purdey recalls an occasion when he found a mobile phone on Staines Moor many years ago (and before Ken had one!): he took it home and asked his teenage daughters how he might find out whom it belonged to. They had a look and said, "Oh yes, it belongs to someone called Peter Naylor!"

On one memorable occasion a group of us were travelling to Los Angeles for a bird trip in 1991 and Pete had arranged to meet with his brother Mark at the airport, who was living there at the time. We all proceeded smoothly through customs and immigration - except, when we turned round, Pete had disappeared! After a wait of at least an hour Pete finally appeared looking rather sheepish. It transpired that he had brought along his old passport (along with his new passport) because it had his lifetime US visa in it - unfortunately he had cut out the photo from the old passport so he could use it for a birdwatching permit!! Needless to say, he had been vigorously interrogated by the US Immigration officials.

His favourite family of birds was always waders and he was never happier than when he was sorting through a large mixed flock of birds - regardless of where it was - and he would happily settle down with his telescope and tripod to sift through the milling

masses along any shoreline or estuary around the world. His west London finds of waders included Dotterel, Pectoral and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Collared Pratincole, Temminck's Stint, Long-billed Dowitcher, and Grey and Red-necked Phalarope - not a bad roll-call by any standards; indeed, his list of waders seen in the Staines area was a fantastic 42, a total that many coastal observers would be happy with! His modesty and caution in the field was never better illustrated than when he discovered the Collared Pratincole at Staines Reservoirs: I was standing next to him at the time and he quietly said, "There's a wader down there (the north basin was drained at the time) that looks like it might be a pratincole". Unfortunately, it promptly walked behind a log, so it took a little while before we were able to confirm that it was indeed a Collared Pratincole. That was effectively a first for the London Area, since the only two previous records in 1948 and 1971 had not been specifically identified. Pete's caution was typical and it characterised his approach to field identification.

In later years, after he moved to Hayes, his 'local patch' became Lake Farm, an area of open grassland, playing fields and shrubs, with several small stands of woodland - conveniently, only a few hundred yards from his door. It was no surprise that he turned up an impressive list of birds for the site, which included such unlikely visitors as very popular long-staying Red-backed Shrike (in 2012), several Wrynecks, Hawfinch, Iceland Gull and Long-eared Owl. It was always to his regret that he felt he had seen a Bonelli's Warbler at this site one autumn, but unfortunately he just didn't see enough on the bird to clinch the identification before he lost it - never to be seen again (it didn't call); it wasn't his style to claim a bird that he wasn't sure was correctly identified.

This attitude is perfectly illustrated by a tribute from Rob Innes: 'In a hobby where egos clamour for attention, Pete was different: a birder who never overstated or strove to impress. He always told it exactly as it appeared to him; if it was a rarity, he'd tell you what he'd seen on it, no more; if it was a hoodwink, it would never occur to him to pretty it up to make himself look better. You got it straight. Together with his knowledge (in my view, unparalleled) of birds in the Staines area, that made him just about the ideal participant in the local birding scene. Pete will not be replaced, and I miss him more, not less, as time passes.'

Whilst birdwatching was his forte, he was also an accomplished botanist and a keen entomologist, more especially butterflies and dragonflies - indeed he was always very proud to have found the first small red-eyed damselfly *Erythromma viridulum* for west London in the middle of Hayes.

Sadly, he was dogged by poor health in the last few years of his life, but despite this he remained enthusiastic and keen to travel to see local birds. He bore his final illness with considerable fortitude and good grace and with no bitterness.

Pete will be sadly missed by the whole birdwatching community, in particular the west London birders, as well as by his close family and friends, especially his brother, Simon, and sister-in-law Mandy who were tireless in their efforts to support him in the last few years, as well as making his last few days as comfortable as possible.

Andrew Moon (with thanks to Ken Purdey and Rob Innes for additional input)
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CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA AND GUIDE TO CONTRIBUTORS OF RECORDS

The total number of species recorded in an apparently wild state in the London Area in historic times is 367. Of these, the 11 species marked with an * in the checklist were recorded at least once prior to 1900 but have not been recorded in an apparently wild state since.

All records of ornithological interest, from LNHS members and non-members alike, are welcomed by the Society's Ornithological Records Committee. However, with an ever-growing number of active birdwatchers in the London Area, it seems sensible to issue a guide to our requirements.

This guide is not intended to be comprehensive, and contributors are asked to use their own guidance and common sense, but it does serve as a reference point for the type of records required. For example, with many common breeding species, comparative yearly breeding counts are especially welcomed. The Records Committee reserves the right to request full details for any record, eg, out-of-season migrants. This guide does not apply to Inner London, where all records are required, but similar criteria regarding descriptions should be followed. Please note: 'Lower Thames' is defined as the section of the R Thames from the Thames Barrier to the eastern edge of our recording area.

Key:

- A = all records.
 B = all breeding records.
 BBRC = full description required; form available from Recorders.
British Birds Rarities Committee makes the decision.
 D = full description required; form available from Recorders.
 F&L = first and last dates for any site.
 MM = dated monthly maximum counts.
 N = brief notes required (how identified, view, distance, etc); form available from Recorders.
 NR = all records from sites where bird not seen regularly.
 P = passage movements.
 S = all records between mid-May and mid-July.
 ST = annual statement of status at a site.
 T = all territory counts.
 W = records outside breeding season.

Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	A, N
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	A, N
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	A, D
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	A, D
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	A
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Red-breasted Goose*	<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	BBRC
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	A

Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	A, N
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	MM, B, ST
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	A
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	MM, NR, B, S
Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	A
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	A
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	A, D
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	MM, NR, S, B
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	MM, NR, S, B
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	A, D
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	MM, B, ST
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	A
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	A
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	BBRC
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	MM, NR, S, B
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	A
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya farina</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	A, D
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	A, D
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	A
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	A, D until 2015, when BBRC
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	A, N
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	BBRC
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	A, N
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	A
Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	A, D
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	A
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	A
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	A
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	A
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	A, B, ST
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	A
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	A
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	A
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	A, N
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	A, N
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	A
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	BBRC
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps griseogen</i>	A
Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	A
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	A
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	A, D
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	A, D

Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	A, D
Barolo Shearwater	<i>Puffinus baroli</i>	BBRC
European Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	A, D
Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	A, D
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	A, N away from Lower Thames
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	A
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	A
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	BBRC
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	A, D
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	BBRC
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	A, D
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	A, D
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	A, D
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	BBRC
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	A, D
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	BBRC until 2013, then A,D
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	A, D
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	A, D
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	A, D
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	A
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	A, D
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	A
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	A, D May-Sep records away from Lower Thames
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	A, D
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	A, D
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	A
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	A, D
Golden Eagle*	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	A, D
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	A
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	BBRC
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	A, D
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	A, N away from Lower Thames
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	BBRC
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	A
Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	A, D
Little Crake*	<i>Porzana parva</i>	BBRC
Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	BBRC
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	A, D
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	MM, B, ST

Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	MM, B, ST
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	A, D
Great Bustard*	<i>Otis tarda</i>	BBRC
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	A
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	BBRC
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	A
Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	A, D
Cream-coloured Courser*	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	BBRC
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	BBRC
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	A
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	A
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	BBRC
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	A, D
Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	A, D
American Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	A, D
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	BBRC
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	A
Sociable Lapwing	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	BBRC
White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	BBRC
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	MM, NR, P, B
Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	A
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	A
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	BBRC
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	A
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	A, D
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	A, D
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	BBRC
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	A, D
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	BBRC
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	A
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	A, D
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	BBRC
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	A, D
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	A
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	A
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	BBRC
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	BBRC
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	A
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	A
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	A
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	A
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	A
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	A
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	BBRC

Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	A
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	BBRC
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	A
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	A
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	BBRC
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	BBRC
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	A
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	A
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	BBRC
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	A, D
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	A, D
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	A, D
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	A, D
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	A, D
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	A, D
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	A
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>	BBRC
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	MM, B, ST
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	A
Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>	BBRC
Franklin's Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>	BBRC
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	A
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	MM, ST
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	A, D
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	MM, B, ST
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	MM, B, ST
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	A
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames, W London reservoirs or Beddington
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames, W London reservoirs or Beddington
Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	BBRC
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames, W London reservoirs or Beddington
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Sooty Tern	<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>	BBRC
Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	BBRC
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	A
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	BBRC
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	BBRC
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	BBRC
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	A
White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	A, D
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	A
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	MM, NR, B, F&L, P, ST

Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	A, D
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	A
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	A, D
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	A, D
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	A, D
Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrhaptus paradoxus</i>	BBRC
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	MM, B, ST
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	MM, B, ST, P
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	A
Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	A, F&L
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	BBRC
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	A
Scops Owl*	<i>Otus scops</i>	BBRC
Snowy Owl	<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	BBRC
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	A
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	A
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	A
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	A
Tengmalm's Owl*	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	BBRC
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	A, N
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	BBRC
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	MM, B, P, F&L, ST
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	A, D
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	T
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	A, D
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	BBRC
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	A, D
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	A, D
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	T
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	T
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	T
Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	A, D
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	BBRC
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	A
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	A, B, P, W
Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	A, D
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	MM, NR, B, F&L, P, ST
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	MM, NR, B, F&L, P, ST
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	MM, NR, B, F&L, P, ST
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	A, D
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	A, D
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	A, D until 2015, when BBRC
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	BBRC

Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	A
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	MM, NR, B, W, P, ST
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	A, D until 2015, when BBRC
Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	A
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	A
Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	BBRC
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	A
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	A, D until 2015, when BBRC
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	MM, NR, B, W, ST
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	A
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	A, D
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	MM, T, ST
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	MM, T, ST
Alpine Accentor*	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	BBRC
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	MM, T, ST
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	A
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	A, D
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	A
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	A
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	A
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	A
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	A
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	BBRC
Grey-cheeked Thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	BBRC
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	A
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	MM, T, ST
Naumann's Thrush	<i>Turdus naumanni</i>	BBRC
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	MM, NR, F&L, P
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	MM, NR, P, T, ST
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	MM, NR, F&L, P
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	MM, NR, P, T, ST
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	BBRC
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	A
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	A
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	BBRC
Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	A, D until 2015, when BBRC
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	MM, NR, T, F&L, ST
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	BBRC
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	A, D until 2015, when BBRC
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	A, D
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	MM, NR, T, F&L, ST
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	A, D
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	A, D
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	MM, NR, F&L, T, B, ST, W
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	A, F&L, T
Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	A, D

Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	MM, NR, F&L, T, B, ST
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	MM, NR, F&L, T, B, ST
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	A
Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	A, D
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	BBRC
Eastern Crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus coronatus</i>	BBRC
Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	A, D
Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	A, D
Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	BBRC
Radde's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	A, D
Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	A, D
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	A
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	MM, NR, F&L, T, ST, W
Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	BBRC
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	A, F&L, T
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	MM, NR, T, ST, W
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	A
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	A
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	A, D
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	A
Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	A
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	MM, NR, T, ST, W
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	MM, T, ST
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	MM, T, ST
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	A, D
Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>	MM, NR, T, ST
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>	A, D
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	A
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	T
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	T
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	BBRC
Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	A, D until 2015, when BBRC
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	A, D
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	BBRC
Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	BBRC
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	A, D
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	BBRC
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	A, D
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	A, D
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	MM, B, ST
Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	BBRC
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	MM, NR, B, P
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	MM, B, ST
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	A, N
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	A

Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	MM, B, P, ST
Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	A, D
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	A
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	MM, B, P, ST
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	A
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	A, D
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	MM, NR, B, W
Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	A, D
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	A
Arctic Redpoll	<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>	A, D
Two-barred Crossbill*	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	BBRC
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	A
Parrot Crossbill*	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	A, D
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	A, D
Pine Grosbeak*	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	BBRC
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	A, B, ST
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	A
Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	A, D
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	A, N
Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephala</i>	BBRC
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	A
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	A, D
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	A, D
Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	A, D until 2015, when BBRC
Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	A, D
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	MM, NR, T, P, ST
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	BBRC
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	A

In addition to the above, full descriptions are required for all species assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee. Description forms are available from the Chair of the Editorial Board or Recorders on request. All records of escapes are also welcomed by the Society. All records of hybrids and birds showing plumage aberrance are also required.

Subspecies

All records of subspecies/races are wanted. Full descriptions are required for the following: White Wagtail in autumn; Yellow Wagtail races other than *M. f. flavissima* and spring records of Blue-headed Wagtail; Siberian Chiffchaff; Northern Willow Warbler; Continental Coal Tit and Northern Bullfinch. For other subspecies please provide your reasons for assigning the record to a particular subspecies/race.

BREEDING CRITERIA

When sending in breeding records, please enter: 'possible breeding', 'probable breeding' or 'confirmed breeding' in the Comments section on the electronic records form according to the definitions below. Additional information can also be given, such as number of territories, broods, nests, young fledged, etc.

Possible breeding

- Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat
- Singing male present (or breeding calls heard) in breeding season in suitable habitat

Probable breeding

- Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season
- Permanent territory presumed on at least two different days, a week or more apart
- Courtship and display (judged to be in or near potential breeding habitat)
- Visiting probable nest-site
- Agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults, suggesting nest or young near by
- Brood patch on adult examined in the hand, suggesting incubation
- Nest-building or excavating nest-hole

Confirmed breeding

- Distraction-display or injury-feigning
- Used nest or eggshells found (occupied or laid within period of survey)
- Recently-fledged young (for warblers and other birds whose young are fed at the nest for some time after hatching, 'nidicolous species') or downy young (for ducks and other birds where the young leave the nest soon after hatching, 'nidifugous species')
- Adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating occupied nest
- Adult carrying faecal sac or food for young
- Nest containing eggs
- Nest with young seen or heard

The above breeding categories are as used in the BTO Atlas project.

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Editorial Board welcomes papers, short notes, photographs and drawings relating to the ornithology of the London Area and will be pleased to advise authors on the acceptability of material at draft stage if desired.

PAPERS should be submitted to the Papers Editor: Mike Trier, 38 Maury Road, London N16 7BP, email: miketrier@waitrose.com, tel: 020 8806 7656.

Texts should be sent as RTF or MS Word file attachments to an email. The dates of all records included should be no later than the nominal year of publication. Printed text (hard copy) can be scanned; please contact the Papers Editor first before submitting it.

Style English names of birds require initial capitals except after a hyphen, but group names, animals and flowers do not. Scientific names should be in italics, but only the first (generic) name should have an initial capital; their use in the text is optional. Dates should take the form Jan 1st 2004; numbers under 11 should be spelt out in text; fractions should be decimalised. Full points should be omitted from well-known initials, such as BTO, LNHS and RSPB, and also from 'eg', 'ie' and 'et al'. Speech quotation marks should be double; all others should be single. Systematic lists within papers should be in the order of Checklist of Birds of the London Area, and in the following format for economy of space:

Common name: Description etc.

Scientific name (except optionally in the Ringing Report) is not required.

References to publications should be given in full, with the name spelt out and in italics, and in the following style:

HARRISON, J., & GRANT, P.J., 1976. *The Thames Transformed*. London.

MOON, A.V., 1988. The influx of Sabine's Gulls and other Seabirds in October 1987. *Lond. Bird Rep.* 52: 121-132.

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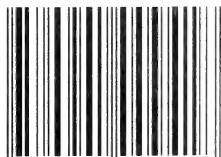
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